

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2009-2010, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-007

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: TESTING OF GM FOODS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Siewert asked:

- a) Does FSANZ monitor and test processed foods for compliance with Standard 1.5.2 – Food produced using Gene Technology?
- b) If so, how often and on what basis are products selected for testing?

Answer:

- a) FSANZ does not routinely monitor and test for compliance with Standard 1.5.2, as this is primarily an enforcement function. The Australian states and territories are responsible for testing for compliance with all Standards in the *Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code*. However, FSANZ can arrange for testing of specific products under certain circumstances.
- b) FSANZ undertakes occasional testing in circumstances where there is a high level of public concern and routine monitoring data do not exist.