

**Economics Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Industry and Science Portfolio  
2015-16 Budget Estimates  
4 June 2015

---

**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY AND SCIENCE

**TOPIC:** Electrical cabling imports

**REFERENCE:** Question on Notice (Hansard, 4 June 2015, page 73-74)

**QUESTION No.:** BI-61

**Senator KIM CARR:** In regard to the work of the commission, or the department, for that matter—this might be a question that Mr Ryan might be able to help me with—has any testing of imported products been carried out to ensure that they are in fact compliant with Australian standards?

**Mr Sexton:** As far as the commission is concerned, that is outside our scope of activity.

**Senator KIM CARR:** What about you, Mr Ryan? Can you help me here?

**Mr Ryan:** I think this is outside the dumping specification issue.

**Senator KIM CARR:** But the standards issue it is not.

**Mr Ryan:** The standards issue is the building products one that we were talking about earlier today.

**Senator KIM CARR:** But this is in regard to electrical cabling. Is there any work being undertaken on imported products, given that there is this matter here? It may not be directly associated with the commission, but is the department undertaking any work in regard to compliance with Australian standards?

**Mr Ryan:** As far as I know, this issue has not been raised with us.

**Senator KIM CARR:** Can you take that on notice, to establish whether or not—

**Mr Ryan:** Yes. I am just being advised there may have been something with the ACCC.

**Mr Lawson:** You may be referring to this. There was some non-compliant electrical cable that was being sold a while ago. I think the ACCC or Fair Trading put an end to that stuff being imported. It was being sold through major hardware stores, so there has been quite a lot of publicity about that issue.

**Senator KIM CARR:** All right. You can take it on notice to see if there is any work being done in this department, the industry department, on standards issues.

**ANSWER**

Australian Standards are voluntary unless their use is mandated by legislation. It is the responsibility of the regulator mandating the use of a standard to ensure that appropriate compliance and monitoring activities are undertaken. In the case of electrical cabling, regulatory responsibility sits with the state and territory electrical safety agencies. As such, the department is not undertaking any work on compliance with Australian Standards.