

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

2014 - 2015

Department/Agency: ACCC
Question: BET 207-209
Topic: sub-standard electrical cable
Reference: written - 15 June 2015
Senator: Carr, Kim

Question:

207 At the Additional Estimates hearing 25 March 2015 the ACCC informed Committee members that of the 4,000 km of sub-standard electrical cable which is subject to a recall, installed in approximately 40,000 houses, approximately 15.5 kilometres had been returned. How much of the cable as now been returned to date?

208 Has the ACCC:

- a) Received a request for a briefing or any advice from the Federal Member for Barker or Minister Joyce about imported forest products and/or Australia's compliance regime in relation to imported forest products? If so, when was this request received?
- b) Provided a briefing or any advice to the Federal Member for Barker or Minister Joyce about imported forest products and/or Australia's compliance regime in relation to imported forest products? If so, when was this briefing or advice provided?

209 Regarding the CodeMark system – how would the ACCC handle a complaint about a product that came with a CodeMark certificate but which did not conform to the specifications outlined in the certificate? Please provide a summary of how such a complaint would be dealt with by the ACCC.

Answer:

207 As at 1 July 2015, 604,483 metres of cable had been accounted for. This includes cable removed, rendered safe, returned to stores and recovered from warehouses.

208

- a) No
- b) See above

209 The ACCC is not the agency responsible for building product regulation.

The ACCC avoids duplication of the supervisory activities of other regulators. So if the ACCC received a complaint alleging that a product did not conform to the specifications outlined in an accompanying CodeMark certificate, it would refer the matter to the relevant state or territory building regulator.

Only rarely will building product issues also be caught under the CCA, as they need to be products that involve consumer product safety and most building products are not often sold directly to final consumers.