

**Economics Legislation Committee**  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio  
2015-16 Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing  
22 October 2015

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**DEPARTMENT:** DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE

**TOPIC:** Boron Content of Steel

**REFERENCE:** Written Question – Senator Xenophon

**QUESTION No.:** SI-69

Furthermore, is Standards Australia aware that by forcing fabricators to verify the chemical composition of all the steel they use they have placed an unreasonable duty of care, liability and cost on an industry already struggling with competition from cheap, poor quality imported products?

**ANSWER**

The below response has been prepared by the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science in consultation with Standards Australia.

Standards Australia develops voluntary consensus based documents for use in Australia. This is one way of establishing requirements. All standards remain voluntary unless called up in a contract or mandated by regulation. Standards Australia has advised that they have given a range of options to the Australian steel in construction industry and continue to resource a number of projects in this area.