

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

Agency - Safe Work Australia

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ15-000210

Senator Leyonhjelm provided in writing

Question

SWA - Assessments

What are the reasons for the different assessments, with respect to adequacy for worker health and safety, of TGA approved labels compared to APVMA approved labels?

Answer

Under the model Work Health and Safety (WHS) Regulations, TGA approved labels are deemed acceptable for therapeutic goods as defined under the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989* (Cth) if they are in a packaged form intended for human consumption or administration to or by a person for therapeutic purposes.

The exemption for therapeutic goods exists because they are designed for and tested on humans for the delivery of a therapeutic effect to humans.

Therapeutic goods that are not in a form intended for patient use, including bulk ingredients used by compounding pharmacists in preparing end-use products, must meet the full suite of WHS labelling requirements.

Agricultural and veterinary chemicals are not intended for human consumption or absorption. In this respect they are the same as all other workplace hazardous chemicals, which are subject to the full suite of workplace labelling requirements. However, agricultural and veterinary chemicals are not required to meet the full suite of labelling requirements, and are only required to have hazard and precautionary statements on the label.