

## Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

**Agency - Safe Work Australia**

**Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ15-000215**

**Senator Leyonhjelm provided in writing.**

#### **Question**

##### **SWA - APVMA labelling**

To what extent would the inclusion of SWA hazard and precautionary statements, in addition to existing APVMA labelling, confuse users?

#### **Answer**

The model Work Health and Safety legislation implements the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling (GHS) for workplace chemicals in Australia. The GHS labelling elements, which include hazard and precautionary statements, form a package of hazard communication elements that have been developed internationally and have been or are being adopted in all major economies.

It is not expected the inclusion of hazard and precautionary statements required under work health and safety legislation will confuse users of agricultural and veterinary chemicals because they:

- are consistent with information already on the safety data sheet
- provide information on hazards not communicated on the APVMA label—for example chronic health hazards such as organ damage, reproductive or developmental effects and carcinogenicity
- do not contradict other information required by APVMA, and
- are clearly delineated from the APVMA required elements of the label.

Appendix E of the model Code of Practice: *Labelling of Workplace Hazardous Chemicals* provides guidance on precedence of label elements which will assist in reducing any potential confusion.