

## Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

**Agency - Safe Work Australia**

**Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ15-000219**

**Senator Leyonhjelm provided in writing.**

#### **Question**

#### **SWA - Information and training**

What is SWA doing to inform and train agricultural and veterinary chemical companies on their obligations and responsibilities regarding labelling and worker health and safety?

#### **Answer**

The model Code of Practice: *Labelling of Workplace Hazardous Chemicals* explains in detail the requirements for labelling of all workplace hazardous chemicals including the requirements that apply to agricultural and veterinary chemicals. The Code of Practice is available on the Safe Work Australia website.

#### Face to face information delivery

During 2013 and 2014 Safe Work Australia funded the delivery of free training sessions for interested persons on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling (GHS) under the model Work Health and Safety legislation.

A total of 40 sessions were conducted between March 2013 and October 2014. Sessions were held in all capital cities and in some regional areas. Approximately 2,000 individuals attended from the chemicals industry, government and consultants.

A number of jurisdictional work health and safety regulators—represented on Safe Work Australia—have also held public information sessions on the GHS.

#### Training material online

The material delivered in the face to face training has been made available on the Safe Work Australia website for use by other trainers. The presentations include speaking notes and worked classification examples.

#### Hazardous Substances Information System

Safe Work Australia has an online database—the Hazardous Substances Information System (HSIS)—containing information to assist the chemicals industry to classify chemicals. This database has approximately 91,000 unique visits per annum.

To support the implementation of the GHS in Australia a Hazardous Chemicals Information List containing GHS classification data was developed and published in 2014.

Safe Work Australia has commenced work to upgrade the current HSIS to include GHS classification information and improve functionality.

#### Telephone and email enquiries

Safe Work Australia staff respond to enquiries made by telephone and email in relation to the implementation of the GHS in Australia through our general enquiries function.

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