

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome 2 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ15-000386

Senator Lines provided in writing.

Question

Building Code Amendment Instrument 2015

How does the Government's Building Code (Fitness for Work/Alcohol and Other Drugs in the Workplace) Amendment Instrument 2015 differ to comparable forms of regulation in mining and other high risk sectors?

Would you accept the regulation is sparse on detail? Is that deliberately so? For example, there's no mention if the testing would be urinary, saliva or blood just that it be an objective medical test. There's no reference to the testing measuring up to a relevant Australian standard?

Answer

The requirements in the Building Code 2013 relating to fitness for work are comparable to regulation in other high risk industries, such as mining.

The level of detail and prescription in the Code is consistent with that in legislation that regulates other high risk industries.