

## **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. EMSQ15-000392**

**Senator Lines provided in writing.**

#### **Question**

##### **Building Code Amendment Instrument 2015 - Targeted testing**

What would targeted testing per the regulation entail? Is there anything to stop the contractor singling out particular workers to be tested every single month?

#### **Answer**

The Building Code 2013 requires that on Commonwealth-funded building projects that meet the financial threshold, principal contractors must have a fitness for work policy to manage alcohol and other drugs in the workplace which includes drug and alcohol testing.

The Building Code does not provide the drug and alcohol policy that is to apply at a workplace. Rather, the Building Code sets the minimum requirements for each workplace policy. How the requirements for the Building Code are implemented at a certain workplace, and other practical matters, are matters for each workplace.

The fitness for work policy must address certain matters, including procedures for the selection of personnel to be tested.

The policy must also include procedures for the targeted testing of high-risk activities, voluntary testing and for-cause testing.

By targeted tests, it is intended that workplace policies will consider and address specific testing arrangements for high risk activities and the requirements for testing of individuals who were involved in an incident or a near-miss.