

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 24 March 2017

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE17/251) - List of asbestos profiles - Programme 3.2: Trade Facilitation and Industry Engagement

Senator Pratt, Louise (L&CA 39) asked:

Senator PRATT: I wish them a good weekend and I thank them for their attendance. I will start with an update on asbestos importation. What seizures have been made since you last reported to estimates on this question?

Mr Quaedvlieg: I will answer that question but let me start in a more generic sense. We have increased significantly our efforts towards asbestos detection and interception at the border. For example, we have now 53 active profiles in the system. I think I have explained the issue of profiles previously but if you wish me to elaborate on what they are I am happy to do that in this forum. Essentially they are alerts on our system for high-risk consignments that may contain asbestos. So we have increased the number of profiles—

Senator PRATT: By profile, do you mean the kinds of products?

Mr Pezzullo: Yes. So there may be cement sheet bores, gaskets, brake pads, prefabricated floor sheeting—that type of thing.

Senator PRATT: If you are able to provide on notice a list of what those kinds of products are, that would be terrific.

Mr Pezzullo: Absolutely, we can do that. The point I was going to make though is that that figure belies the actual effort that we are going to, and this is the point I wanted to elucidate in this hearing. If I go back to, let's say, financial year 2013-14, for the entire year we had 117 alerts that went off at the border for consignments that we needed to look at. If I look at the number of alerts that have gone off year-to-date for this financial year, we have almost 6,000.

Senator PRATT: Yes, that would be more logical.

Answer:

On 24 March 2017, the following goods were being profiled for the presence of asbestos:

- Abrasives and friction materials
- Brakes and clutches
- Building panels
- Heat exchangers
- Cosmetics
- Crayons
- Motorised bicycles and scooters
- Electrical equipment and components
- Gaskets, packing and jointing
- Industrial machinery

- Insulation and protective materials
- Jewellery and ornaments
- Prefabricated buildings
- Motorcycles and components
- Power tools
- Sealants, adhesives and mastics
- Stone and mineral products.

We continually refine our targeting approach using intelligence, historical detection data and referrals from industry, other agencies and statutory authorities involved in asbestos management to ensure we remain responsive to new information and that we are addressing the risk at the border.