

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 26 – 27 MAY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE14/616) PROGRAMME – Operation Sovereign Borders

Senator Conroy (Written) asked:

In the answer to Question on Notice 344 the respondent indicates that all of the vessels in OSB that carry these orange lifeboats are equipped with the means to launch them. Has the launching mechanisms for the orange lifeboats been approved by AMSA?

- a. Are the launching mechanisms used when asylum seekers are loaded onto these vessels?
- b. Are asylum seekers loaded onto these lifeboats in accordance with international standards for the use of lifeboats?

Answer:

The lifeboats to which you refer to are carried strictly as deck cargo, not as part of the ships safety equipment; consequently the method of unloading the lifeboats into the sea is not required to be approved by AMSA.

The empty lifeboats are unloaded in accordance with the manufacturer's guidelines for handling these craft as cargo, using a suitable lifting appliance.

The details of on-water operations will not be discussed.