

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts
References Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

Inquiry into the Energy Efficient Homes Package

February 2010

Question No: 45
Topic: Cost of remediation
Hansard Page ECA:

Senator BARNETT asked:

If the house insulation is found to be unsafe or non compliant who pays to fix the problem? How many inspectors will be appointed and in which states and territories are they located?

Answer/s:

Currently if a householder is concerned about the insulation installed in his/her home, rectification of the problem may be achieved through contact with the original installer.

Where issues of non-compliant insulation are identified through compliance activity and a resolution has not been possible between the householder and the installer, the Department may withhold any outstanding payments to the installer until the problem has been rectified.

On 19 February 2010 the Government made a commitment that it is prepared to inspect as many houses as necessary which have had insulation installed under the terminated Home Insulation Program (HIP).

Full details on the processes underpinning the inspection regime remain under development.

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Inquiry into the Energy Efficient Homes Package

February 2010

Question No: 81

Topic: Compliance with Australian standards

Hansard Page ECA:

Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:

To what standard are insulation batts expected to comply? Has the Government ever advised industry of the need to or recommended compliance of insulation batts with the AS/NZ 4859.1 standard? If so, where and when? Are you aware of the government JAS- ANZ website, which lists 10 insulation suppliers that are AS/NZ 4859.1 certified? Are you aware that of the approximately 60 companies on the DEWHA “preferred product list” only 10 are AS/NZ 4859.1 certified? Why is this the case? What is the difference in certification and safety standards between the different levels of certification? Will all products under the new program need to be AS/NZ 4859.1 certified? What steps are you taking to ensure that products are AS/NZ 4859.1 certified under the new program?

Answer/s:

All insulation used under the Home Insulation Program was required to comply with AS/NZS 4859.1:2002 (Amendment 1 December 2006) “Materials for the Thermal Insulation of Buildings”.

The requirement for product to comply with the insulation product standard was addressed at a number of regular industry roundtables. In addition, the Program guidelines clearly state in Section 4 *Installation eligibility requirements*, that all insulation used under the Program must meet the insulation product standard (page 7) and installers received Installer Advisory Notices on 6 August 2009 and 23 December 2010, that outlined the requirement for all products to meet the Standard and provided advice on how installers could be satisfied that product met the Standard.

Regular consultation with a range of stakeholders occurred throughout the Program to develop an understanding of the accreditation and certification processes for insulation product in accordance with the Australian Standard, AS/NZS 4859.1:2002. The Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts consulted with the government appointed accreditation body, the Joint Accreditation System of Australia and NZ (JAS ANZ). JAS ANZ provided guidance on accessing appropriate and relevant information particularly in identifying companies, agencies and laboratories that were accredited or certified in relation to the Standard.

In order for product to be placed on the Approved List of Products, the manufacturer or distributor of the product was required to provide the Department with a certificate or test report from an accredited or recognised laboratory or testing facility stating that the product had been tested and had been found to meet Australian Standard AS/NZS 4859.1:2002.

The companies on the list referred to have met this requirement.

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Inquiry into the Energy Efficient Homes Package

February 2010

Question No: 85
Topic: Expected rate of installations
Hansard Page ECA:

Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:

What was the volume and speed of insulation installation that the government planned and expected?

Answer/s:

The Home Insulation Program was a demand driven program that was established to run until its completion date, December 2011, or until Program funds had been fully allocated.

Notional monthly budget allocations for the Program were reached by dividing the annual budget by twelve. This was not a projection of the volume or speed of take up of the Program.