

Department of Agriculture and Water Resources

Joint Committee on the Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity: inquiry into the Integrity of Australia's border arrangements

Hearing date: 1 August 2017

Question Taken on Notice

Question:

How many of your department employees have an MSIC and ASIC?

Answer:

As of 31 July 2017:

- 1,428 departmental employees hold a valid ASIC
- 1,040 departmental employees hold a valid MSIC
- 802 departmental employees hold both a valid MSIC and ASIC

These figures also include non-operational staff.

Question:

What happens when someone leaves your employ or no longer requires an MSIC or an ASIC?

Answer:

The department's policy requires supervisors to notify the department's People Services via Aurion (the department's people and payroll system) if the following apply to a staff member:

- Permanent cessation, or
- Absence greater than three months, or
- Temporary transfer or secondment to another work area, location or agency where their MSIC or ASIC is not required to perform their role for any length of time; or
- An overseas posting

It is the card holders responsibility to hand in their ASIC and/or MSIC card to their supervisor or the single point of contact in their location if they no longer have an operational need within 30 days

Where staff have been placed on miscellaneous leave whilst awaiting the outcomes of a formal investigation into their behaviour or actions, the MSIS and/or ASIC are surrender immediately to their supervisor or manager.

Question:

So, on what basis, other than your comments earlier about your assessment of the entity, do you decide as to whether an inspection will be carried out? What criteria do you use?

Answer:

The Export Control Act (1982) and relevant Orders stipulate the requirements for the preparation of meat and meat products including compliance to importing country requirements. Each export registered meat establishment has an Approved Arrangement (AA) which demonstrates how they comply with the legislation and importing country requirements. The department approves the AA prior to granting export registration to the establishment and then verifies ongoing compliance to the Australia system under an agreed audit regime, this is additional to the presence of on plant officers at abattoirs that are primarily responsible for ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection dispositions.

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Written Questions

Senator Bridget McKenzie - Is the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources itself an ASIC or MSIC issuing authority or does it obtain ASICs and MSICs through the Department of Immigration and Border Protection?

Answer:

The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources is not an ASIC or MSIC issuing authority. The department obtains ASICs and MSICs through the Department of Immigration and Border Protection.

Senator Bridget McKenzie - Has the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources been an issuing body in the past? If yes, why is it no longer an issuing authority?

Answer:

The department has never been an ASIC or MSIC issuing body in the past.