

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates 2017 - 2018

Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities

Committee Question Number: 45

Departmental Question Number: SQ18-000066

Program: n/a

Division/Agency: Airservices Australia

Topic: PFAS decontamination

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Senator Malarndirri McCarthy asked:

Senator McCARTHY: If the PPE is your primary control, how and when is decontamination required?

Ms Bennetts: I'll have to take the detail of that on notice. We certainly do take decontamination very seriously as a part of our control environment. For example, if our firefighters go to an operational incident and we're concerned that the PPE has been contaminated, that PPE will be required to be laundered before they can use it again, and so forth. But if you require any more detail on that I'll need to take that on notice.

Senator McCARTHY: Okay, and also whether there have been recent incidents in terms of decontamination; perhaps you could take that on notice as well.

Ms Bennetts: In terms of where we've actually had to, it would be [inaudible], but perhaps we can give you some trends in that regard, or something like that.

Senator McCARTHY: Sure.

Answer:

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is inspected at the commencement of each shift and after use. All stations are provided with industrial laundering facilities to wash and dry PPE following normal use.

In the event heavy soiling or contamination has occurred, the PPE is sent off site for decontamination by an external provider. Procedures are established for this including the use of the correct transportation packaging.

Since June 2017, approximately 200 PPE garments have been sent off site for decontamination for a variety of chemicals.