

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2013 - 2014, 26 February 2014

Ref No: SQ14-000160

OUTCOME: 1 – Population Health

Topic: Testing Results for Imported Raspberries

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Xenophon Nick

Question:

In December last year, tests by Today Tonight revealed banned chemicals in imported frozen raspberries. The majority of frozen raspberries in the supermarkets come from Chile or China, both countries without strict chemical regulations. Today Tonight found that a number of brands contained traces of a number of fungicides and pesticides, some of which are banned here in Australia for agricultural use due to their carcinogenic effects on the human body.

What action can be taken by FSANZ once violating products have been identified on supermarket shelves?

Answer:

Food Standards Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ) has no role in enforcing compliance with the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code. If FSANZ is made aware of non-compliant imported product being sold domestically, we communicate the information to the Department of Agriculture (Imported Food Program) and also to the local relevant state health authority (as the pertinent enforcement agency). If a food recall is considered the appropriate action by the authority and the product sponsor, then FSANZ assists by coordinating the food recall.