

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 22 October 2014**

**Ref No: SQ14-001340**

**OUTCOME:** 1 – Population Health

**Topic:** Pre-market Requirements for Food

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Siewert, Rachel

**Question:**

You have a general requirement that manufacturers and suppliers must provide only foods that are safe, but do you set out any pre-market requirements, such as the types of tests that need to be conducted and the kind of evidence that is required?

If no: then your standard of evidence for allowing food on the market is significantly less than the standard for regulatory intervention where health concerns are raised?

**Answer:**

Yes. The Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) Application Handbook describes the data that is required to establish the safety of food substances that require pre-market assessment. The Handbook is available on the FSANZ website at <http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/changes/pages/applicationshandbook.aspx>