

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry and Science Portfolio
Additional Estimates 2014-15
26 February 2015

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY AND SCIENCE

TOPIC: Country of Origin Labelling

REFERENCE: Question on Notice

QUESTION No.: AI-76

1. What's the Department's role in Country of Origin labelling?
2. In relation to the Hepatitis scare and frozen berries – how did this situation occur? What's the Department role in addressing this issue?

ANSWER

1. The Department of Industry and Science has overarching policy responsibility for Australia's Country of Origin labelling framework, including specific responsibility for Chapter 5 Part 5-3 of the *Australian Consumer Law*, Schedule 2 to the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010*.
2. The responsibility for imported foods lies with the Department for Agriculture and the responsibility for food standards lies with Food Standards Australia New Zealand, which is an independent statutory agency under the Department of Health. Questions relating to the safety and standards of imported food should be directed to those agencies.

The Department of Industry and Science provides analytical testing services to the aforementioned agencies on a fee-for-service basis through the National Measurement Institute.