

**Economics Legislation Committee**  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Industry Innovation and Science Portfolio  
2015-16 Additional Budget Estimates  
11 February 2016

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**DEPARTMENT:** DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE

**TOPIC:** Imported Steel

**REFERENCE:** Written Question – Senator Carr

**QUESTION No.:**AI-127

What is being done to ensure that imported steel meets the same standards as Australian made steel?  
Is the Department aware of reports that some imported steel products do not meet the same standards as Australian made steel?

**ANSWER**

The Department is aware of reports of imported steel products that do not meet the same standards as Australian made steel.

All building products, regardless of country of origin, are required to conform to minimum Australian performance standards as referenced in the National Construction Code and called up in state and territory legislation. As such, the building conformance framework, along with compliance and enforcement, is the responsibility of state and territory governments.

The Australian Government takes the issue of non-conforming building products seriously. On 19 February 2016, the Building Ministers' Forum progressed a number of reforms which will benefit the Australian building industry and the wider Australian community. This includes improving cooperation and enhancing industry and consumer awareness of non-conforming building products.