

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates, 2 June – 4 June 2009

Question: bet 125

Topic: Country of Origin Labelling

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Xenophon asked:

1. Does the ACCC have concerns regarding country of origin labelling - are consumers getting the full picture regarding country of origin of products in their supermarket for example?
2. Has there been an increase in actions the ACCC is taking on country of origin issues?

Answer:

1. While certain industry specific regulations prescribe requirements in relation to country of origin labelling, the *Trade Practices Act 1974* (the Act) does not generally require country of origin labelling. It does, however, require businesses to refrain from making false or misleading representations (direct or implied) as to country of origin. The ACCC provides specific guidance to businesses in relation to country of origin labelling and the Act. Where appropriate, the ACCC investigates and resolves allegations of misleading country of origin representation.
2. The ACCC has not identified any obvious trends in relation to actions it has taken in relation to country of origin issues. Approximate enforcement outcomes (litigation and enforceable undertakings) concerning country of origin claims over the past four financial years is set out below.

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Litigation	1	0	0	1
Enforceable undertakings	1	4	1	3