

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2011-2012**

Agency - Safe Work Australia

Question EW0887_12

Harmonisation

1. When are all aspects of Occupational Health and Safety harmonisation – including the model codes of practice – going to be finalised?

Answer

Safe Work Australia has provided the following response:

All aspects of the harmonisation process in relation to the development of the model Work Health and Safety (WHS) laws will be finalised by the end of 2012. During 2012, Safe Work Australia will complete the model WHS Regulations for mining and develop additional model Codes of Practice to harmonise existing guidance on specific WHS requirements.

The *Intergovernmental Agreement for Regulatory and Operational Reform in Occupational Health and Safety* allows for the continued development of model Codes of Practice beyond 2012.

However, in order to complete the harmonisation process by end of 2012, Safe Work Australia Members have agreed that any future proposals for model Codes of Practice will be considered as new work that forms part of the implementation and maintenance phases of the harmonised laws.