

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

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

Outcome 5 – Workplace Relations

DEEWR Question No.EW0038_12

Senator Abetz provided in writing.

Question

Harmonisation OHS Regulations

When does the Government expect to release the final harmonised Occupational Health and Safety Regulations?

Answer

The model Work Health and Safety Regulations will be released by Safe Work Australia following agreement by the Select Council on Workplace Relations (formerly the Workplace Relations Ministers' Council). The Select Council on Workplace Relations will consider the model regulations at its 10 August 2011 meeting.

Safe Work Australia developed draft model Work Health and Safety Regulations as part of the OHS harmonisation legislative package. These were made available for public comment for a period of four months from 7 December 2010 to 4 April 2011. The regulations were revised as a result of public feedback.

Under the *Intergovernmental Agreement for Regulatory and Operational Reform in Occupational Health and Safety*, each jurisdiction is required to implement the regulations by 1 January 2012 within their jurisdiction following Workplace Relations Ministers' Council agreement to the regulations.

The model regulations are on track for the commencement of the harmonised Work Health and Safety laws on 1 January 2012.