

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE

Question No. 102

Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 13 February 2007:

- a) Please provide a division of statistics between air couriers and other air cargo?
- b) What percentage of private contractor courier air cargo are screened?
- c) What percentage of letter class mail is X-rayed?
- d) What percentage of private contractor courier parcels are X-rayed?

The answer to the honourable Senator's question is as follows:

- a) International air couriers (e.g. TNT; DHL, FedEx, UPS) are service providers to the air cargo industry specialising in the 'door-to-door' transport of time-sensitive shipments. They also handle general air freight. In 2006, international air couriers carried 76 per cent of air cargo consignments imported into Australia.
- b) In 2005/06, Customs examined 68 per cent of imported air cargo. This was made up of Customs examining 100 per cent of the reportable documents handled by the international air couriers and up to 44 per cent of general air freight. Details of screening rates by individual companies are not available
- c) In conjunction with the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS), Customs screens all postal articles that are presented by Australia Post. This examination may be undertaken through the use of detector dogs, X-ray screening or physical examination. A breakdown of the number of letters x-rayed is not available.
- d) Refer answer to Question 102 (b) above.