

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee**  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Budget Estimates May 2013  
**Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

**Question:** 105

**Division/Agency:** Border Compliance Division

**Topic:** Agricultural chemicals

**Proof Hansard page:** 83-84 (27/05/2013)

**Senator COLBECK asked:**

**Senator COLBECK:** The issue probably is better off going back to an active rather than a particular product I suppose.

**Ms Mellor:** Yes.

**Senator COLBECK:** Can you give us that on notice?

**Ms Mellor:** They will be here.

**Senator COLBECK:** No, I am just going to the list. The list is published on the website, isn't it?

**Ms Mellor:** Yes, it is. I suspect since you last asked us it is the same 49. I have not seen a change to that. It is the same 49 agricultural chemicals.

**Senator COLBECK:** I will run through these quickly. I doubt that you will be able to give me this now. I have had a look at the imported food inspection data reports.

**Ms Mellor:** I think they have just left so we might need to take some of that on notice.

**Senator COLBECK:** You would because this goes deeper than just that time frame. I was after actual numbers for chemical residue testing for the past five years for the following products and what amounts were imported over that period. I am talking about orange juice concentrate from Brazil, tomatoes from Italy, frozen vegetables from China, and frozen and tinned vegetables from New Zealand using imported products from China, and the second part is what chemicals were included in the residue test, but we have basically covered that.

**Ms Mellor:** The same 49. We will be very happy to get the details for you on notice

**Answer:**

Frozen and tinned vegetables from New Zealand using imported products from China come under the Trans Tasman Mutual Recognition Arrangement (TTMRA) and are not inspected or tested under the Imported Food Inspection Scheme. Further information on the operation of the TTMRA is available from the website:

[www.daff.gov.au/biosecurity/import/food/importing-food-from-new-zealand](http://www.daff.gov.au/biosecurity/import/food/importing-food-from-new-zealand)

The following table summarises the responses to the questions relating to specific foods from Brazil, China and Italy.

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**Question:** 105 (continued)

<b>Country</b>	<b>Food product</b>	<b>Number of pesticide tests applied during 2008 to 2012</b>	<b>Volume imported for 2008 to 2012</b>
Brazil	Orange juice concentrate - frozen - fresh	88 samples across both fresh and frozen	118 910 tonnes 424 000 litres
Italy	Tomatoes – prepared and/or preserved	825 samples	294 826 tonnes
China	Frozen vegetables	1044 samples	136 426 tonnes

The chemical residue screen applied to imported fruit and vegetables is published on the website: [www.daff.gov.au/biosecurity/import/food/tests-applied-to-surveillance-category-foods/pesticide-screen](http://www.daff.gov.au/biosecurity/import/food/tests-applied-to-surveillance-category-foods/pesticide-screen)

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry implemented testing for carbendazim residues in imported orange juice and orange juice concentrate from 29 March 2013. Carbendazim testing is treated as a separate test and not included in the routine pesticide screen for chemical residues.

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**Question:** 106

**Division/Agency:** Border Compliance Division

**Topic:** Review of Industry Training associated with AQIS co-regulatory arrangement

**Proof Hansard page:** Written

**Senator COLBECK asked:**

What has happened to the review of industry training associated with AQIS co-regulatory arrangements?

Is another review planned?

Where there any findings or recommendations of use?

**Answer:**

As provided in the Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry's (DAFF) response to QON 173 of May 2012, DAFF is continuing to work with interested parties on developing a policy which clearly articulates the requirements for and delivery of training relating to industry arrangements; and to address the findings of the consultant's draft report.

In late 2012 DAFF made a commitment to industry, through its DAFF Cargo Consultative Committee, that broker accreditation training for the *Non Commodity for Containerised Cargo Clearance* (NCCC) Scheme would be the first priority for review.

DAFF has completed this first review and will shortly cease directly providing training for the NCCC Scheme. Instead, the nationally recognised training competency 'Carry out quarantine procedures', a mandatory part of the National Customs Brokers course, will be delivered externally through registered training organisations.

DAFF has re-evaluated this training competency to ensure it meets biosecurity requirements and can provide up to date skills and knowledge for Customs brokers. DAFF is working with the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service; Transport & Logistics Industry Skills Council; Customs Brokers and Forwarders Council of Australia (CBFCA) and other registered training organisations to plan for this change in training delivery.

As DAFF continues to progress its reform agenda and review training requirements for industry arrangements, related training needs will be considered and the department will continue to work closely with industry to ensure that training can be efficiently delivered and meet the needs of all parties.

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**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

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**Question:** 107

**Division/Agency:** Border Compliance Division

**Topic:** Rural Tailgate Inspection

**Proof Hansard page:** Written

**Senator COLBECK asked:**

How were decisions made regarding the reclassification of rural postcodes so that rural tailgate inspections were no longer required?

**Answer:**

Postcodes were reclassified based on planning classification developed by state and territory governments, sea container delivery data, history of fringe rural exemptions, compliance with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's requirements and physical review of various locations. The reclassification of postcodes resulted in fewer tailgate inspections, which providing there is no other intervention, resulted in faster clearance of sea containers and reduced inspection costs for industry. Containers due to be unpacked in rural areas remain subject to rural tailgate inspections to ensure biosecurity risk is managed at the port of arrival.

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**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

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**Question:** 108

**Division/Agency:** Border Compliance Division

**Topic:** Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy Boat Reduction

**Proof Hansard page:** Written

**Senator COLBECK asked:**

How will 1 boat be able to replace the existing four without a loss in service?

What happens if there are two separate incidents at separate locations?

What happens if the boat breaks down?

**Answer:**

The proposed configuration of one new vessel will enable the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) to service more areas of the north Australian coast. The new vessel provides more flexibility for deployment and will comply with work health and safety protocols and Australian Maritime Safety Authority survey requirements.

The vessel will mainly be used for higher risk Torres Strait biosecurity activity. In the event of multiple time-critical biosecurity incursion incidents, DAFF can utilise another vessel currently based at Bamaga Island and/or seek assistance from other Commonwealth agencies through Border Protection Command.

As above, DAFF follows protocols which include access to other maritime support, including during periods when vessels may be out of service.