

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Question No.: OTS 01

Division/Agency: Office of Transport Security

Topic: Disallowance of Aviation Transport Security Amendment Regulations 2009
(No. 1) – Cockpit Access

Hansard Page/s: 143-144 (20/10/09)

Senator Back asked:

Senator BACK—All right, so let me ask the question again. Perhaps you cannot answer the question then on behalf of the minister. My interest is in the two areas that I have raised, and you have indicated that you cannot answer. The second area—again raised in speeches in the Senate, so I imagine it is in the public arena—is the transfer of criminal liability from an airline operator to the captain of that aircraft in that particular event.

Senator Conroy—I appreciate that you have raised this point and you are pursuing it. Obviously I am not in a position to comment myself, but I am happy to take that on notice and see if there is any further information the minister would like to provide in answer to that.

Senator BACK—I recall those being the two issues that were raised in the Senate in regard to this and obviously, like everybody else who flies all the time, I want to see it moved forward. Again, it is the case that your officials cannot comment, but I ask that those two points be taken on board.

Senator Conroy—As I say, I will take that on notice and pass that on to the minister for you and see if he would like to respond or has got anything he would like to add to the points you have made.

Senator BACK—Thank you. Chair, that is it for me.

Answer:

The Government remains committed to a strong national security framework which involve clear and consistent regulations for access to aircraft flight decks, and will be reintroducing the regulation at the first available opportunity.

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Question No.: OTS 02

Division/Agency: Office of Transport Security

Topic: Costing Analysis of Transport Security Enhancements

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Macdonald asked:

1. Has the Department conducted any cost analysis or assessment of the infrastructure required to support transport security enhancements?
2. Has the Department reviewed the Maritime Security Identification Card system?
 - a. Does the Department consider that the MSIC should be extended beyond ports to other components of the supply chain?

Answer:

The Department is constantly monitoring transport security arrangements, including the Maritime Security Identification Card scheme.

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Question No.: OTS 03

Division/Agency: Office of Transport Security

Topic: Oversight of Compliance at Ports

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Macdonald/Nash asked:

Oversight of compliance at ports

1. What compliance activities have been undertaken by OTS at our ports in:
 - a. Financial year 2007-2008
 - b. Financial year 2008-2009
 - c. So far in financial year 2009-2010
2. How many OTS staff are involved in undertaking these compliance activities in:
 - a. Financial year 2007-2008
 - b. Financial year 2008-2009
 - c. So far in financial year 2009-2010
3. ONLY if numbers have decreased:
 - a. Why have compliance activities decreased?
 - b. Why have staff numbers involved in this process decreased?
4. How does OTS determine which ports to inspect and which not to inspect? (ie is it a truly random process or does it rely on tip-offs or each port getting inspected in routine way?)
5. Did any of your inspections at ports in the last three financial years result in the port not meeting required standards?
6. If yes:
 - a. Which ports?
 - b. When?
 - c. Why?
7. Have follow up inspections been done to ensure that all of these ports have been brought up to the required standards?
 - a. If not, why not?
 - b. If yes, give details?

Answer:

1. a. In 2007-2008 1740 compliance activities were undertaken by OTS at Australian ports.
 - b. In 2008-2009 931 compliance activities were undertaken by OTS at Australian ports
 - c. In 2009-2010 (as at 30 October 2009) 265 compliance activities were undertaken by OTS at Australian ports
2. a. In 2007/08 26 staff were involved in maritime inspection work.
 - b. In 2008/09 28 staff were involved in maritime inspection work.
 - c. In 2009/10 27 staff were involved in maritime inspection work.
3. Compliance activity has been prioritised based on relative risk.
4. OTS's annual compliance plan is intelligence led and risk based.
5. Most compliance verification activities produce findings or observations in relation to some aspects of the security regime. Overall levels of compliance remain sound.

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6. N/A.
7. Any compliance issues arising during an audit or inspection are formally brought to the attention of the port operator.

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Question No.: OTS 04

Division/Agency: Office of Transport Security

Topic: Maritime Security Identification Card scheme

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

- 1 Has the Department reviewed the Maritime Security Identification Card system?
- 2 Does the Department consider that the MSIC should be extended beyond ports to other components of the supply chain?

Answer:

Refer to OTS 02.