

Estimated Arrival Date	Voyage Vessel Id	Voyage Nbr	Sea Bill Ocean Bill Lading Nbr	Sea Bill House Bill Lading Nbr	Consignor Full Name	Consignee Full Name	Sea Bill Line Cargo Type
s. 37(2)(a), s. 45(1)							

Container Nbr	Cargo Volume	Cargo Volume Unit	Gross Weight	Gross Weight Unit	Net Weight	Net Weight Unit	Package Count	Xray Send Requirement	Goods Description	Discharge Port Code	Cargo Status Type Code	Destination Port Code	Destination Region
s. 37(2)(a), s. 45(1)													

Attachment A – Detection results and targeting activity

Over the past few years asbestos has been detected in a wide range of imported goods including gaskets, brakes, ducts, pipe spools, heating equipment and pressurised hoses.

While a number of consignments containing these goods were identified by the ABF and intercepted, some consignments made it into the Australian community and were detected through other means. This point indicates that opportunities exist to refine the ABF's current asbestos intervention efforts.

Included below is an overview of asbestos detections made by the ABF during the period June 2011 to June 2015. Also included is a summary of 2014-15 profile and alert activity targeting asbestos.

Detection Snapshot

Figure 1 shows the number of detections of asbestos consignments over the past four years. While not high in number, this figure demonstrates that goods containing asbestos are still being imported into Australia, regardless of its status as a prohibited import. Further analysis indicates a high proportion of these goods originated from China (57%) and the USA (17%). Other countries that have been the occasional origin (1-2 instances) of asbestos containing goods detected by the ABF include Vietnam, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Papua New Guinea, Canada and the Netherlands.²

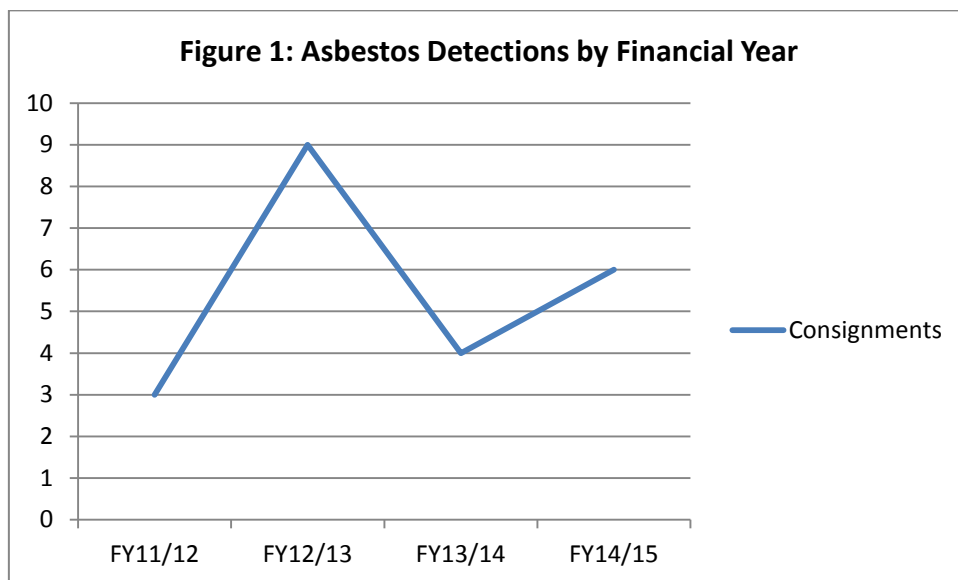


Figure 2 shows the distribution of asbestos detections across the regional commands over the past four years. Higher detections in Western Australia and Queensland are reflective of mining and industry activity in these regions that require heavy machinery and industrial products and parts sourced from overseas suppliers.

² Detection snapshot data sourced from the Detained Goods Management System, extracted from entries containing 'asbestos' in the goods description field.

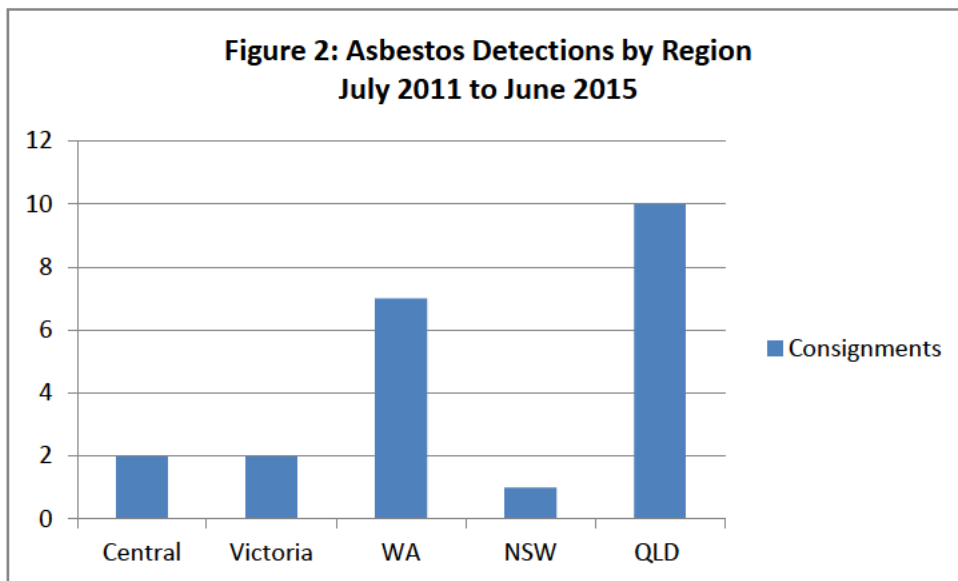
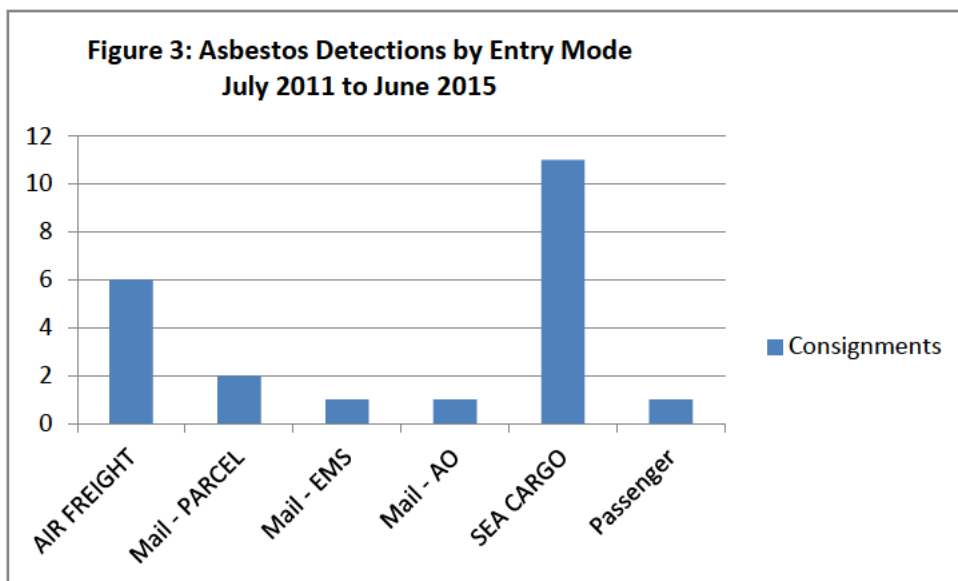


Figure 3 shows the distribution of asbestos detections across entry modes. The air and sea cargo streams are the most common channels where asbestos detections have been made.



Profile and Alert Activity

s. 37(2)(b), s. 47E(d)

As at 21 July 2015, there were fifteen active profiles/alerts in operation and six community protection question (CPQ) profiles in the ICS. Of the fifteen profiles/alerts,

2014-15 Asbestos Profile Results

s. 37(2)(b), s. 47E(d)

Table 2 – Match Acquittals

Match acquittals from 1 July 2014 - 30 June 2015	Match numbers
s. 37(2)(b), s. 47E(d)	s. 37(2)(b), s. 47E(d)
Exam Positive for asbestos	4
Total matches	226

Following evaluation, twenty of the 226 matches (almost 9%) were referred for examination. Of these, four resulted in positive detections of goods containing asbestos:

- two detections of sample tiles from Papua New Guinea;
- one detection of brake linings (tricycle) from China; and
- one detection of gaskets from China.

s. 37(2)(b), s. 47E(d)

**Department of Immigration and Border Protection
Supplementary Estimates –October 2015**

SE2016 – 000198 – **Checking for imported goods containing asbestos**

Key Statistics

Profiles/Alerts	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16 YTD
Number of profile/Alert matches	157	273	535
s. 37(2)(b), s. 47E(d)	s. 37(2)(b), s. 47E(d)		
Number of physical examinations as a result of profile/alert matches	10	20	42
Number of positive matches	3	3	4

Key Talking Points

- The Australian Border Force (ABF) employs a risk based approach to managing the importation of dangerous and illicit goods at pre and post border in consultation with a range of domestic and international partners.
- As part of this approach, the ABF regularly undertakes a number of intervention activities designed to prevent goods containing asbestos from entering Australia.
- These include the utilisation of profiles and alerts designed to target likely commodities and consignments destined for import into Australia which may contain asbestos.
- These profiles and alerts have been developed using historical detection data and referrals from industry, other agencies and statutory authorities involved in asbestos management.
- The ABF have significantly increased the operational focus at the border on goods that pose a risk of containing asbestos as can be seen in the Key Statistics.
- As at 5 January 2016, there are currently 41 active profiles in place.
 - of these, 11 of these target specific goods and the other 30 profiles cover a mixture of identified high-risk commodities and entities.
 - these profiles cover a wide range of goods including building materials, automotive parts, mining machinery, crayons and children's toys.
- The ABF is also working on a range of activities ahead of the border to reduce the risk of asbestos being imported into Australia. Including the development of in-country education and awareness sessions with key suppliers and manufacturers to promote awareness of Australian import prohibitions and restrictions associated with asbestos.
- Exchange of information with international counterparts who also prohibit or restrict asbestos, to potentially identify other commodities to strengthen existing profiles and alerts.
- The ABF is developing education and awareness programmes for key industry sectors more likely to be engaged with the import and use of products that may contain asbestos (e.g. the

automotive and mining industries) to encourage importers to ensure they are taking adequate steps to ensure the goods being imported have been tested and certified as free from asbestos.

If asked

Q: Why are some goods getting into Australia that are commonly known to contain asbestos?

A: The ABF employs a risk based approach to managing all border threats and works with domestic and international partner agencies to target illegal activities before, at and after the border.

Q: Why are there very few prosecutions for importers of asbestos?

A: The ABF finalised s. 47E(d) with the importation of goods containing asbestos during 2014-15. There was one successful prosecution resulting in a fine of \$10,000 and a second case resulting in seizure of gaskets containing asbestos and a warning being issued. The other three investigations were terminated. s. 47E(d)

Q: What happens when there is a suspicion that a good contains asbestos?

A: In the first instance, there would be a call for documents to verify if there are any certificates that confirm the goods are asbestos free. If certificates can't be provided or there are other concerns, such as in relation to their authenticity, an examination will be requested.

The ABF will advise the importer that an examination is required and the importer is to organise a hygienist (at their expense) to attend and take/test a sample. If positive, it will be referred to the ABF for possible prosecution, subsequent seizure action and immediate disposal is then organised.

Background

In 2015, there have been several media articles which claim that border protection measures are inadequate in relation to combatting the importation of asbestos. These articles involved the finding of asbestos in sandwich panel boards used in construction and electrical switch panels.

The ABF is currently strengthening its response to the risk of asbestos entering Australia, addressing the risks pre-border, at the border and post border through a number of targeted activities.

In November 2014 a compliance operation was stood up to deal with commodities used in the building industry.

s. 37(2)(b), s. 47E(d)

On 16 December 2015, a DIBP Notice was published on the internet and for distribution to certain industry groups. The aim of the Notice is to (re) inform the importer of their responsibilities to ensure imported goods are asbestos free and what their ongoing obligations are.

Asbestos in children's toys

In July 2015, media reported that children's crayons and toy kits containing fingerprint powder manufactured in China were tested and found to contain asbestos. The ABF stood up a multi-stage

operation to prevent the importation or sale of children's crayons and toy kits that may potentially be impacted.

As of 31 December 2015, over 300 consignments have been stopped at the border as part of this operation.

- five consignment have tested positive to the presence of asbestos
- two additional consignments are currently being held/assessed that are likely to result in seizure.
- remaining consignments have been released after negative test results were received or importers were able to provide appropriate assurance that consignments were negative to the presence of asbestos.

Asbestos verification

In November 2015, the ABF also stood up an asbestos verification operation. With the aim to target certain commodities that may contain asbestos, specifically linked to the building industry.

s. 37(2)(b), s. 47E(d)

As of 7 January 2016, there has been 44 consignments assessed in relation to this operation.

- one consignment has had a positive test for asbestos which has not been formally seized yet
- remaining consignments are still under assessment or have been released following negative test results or importers have been able to provide appropriate assurance that goods are asbestos free.

Information and data obtained from positive results will be shared with the Heads of Workplace Safety Authority (HWSA) working group to address domestically.

Consultation

External agencies consulted: Nil

Internal consultation: Traveller, Customs and Industry Policy Division, Regional Command WA

Responsible Officer

Stephen Allen, Assistant Commissioner

Border Management

Ph: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Mob: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Contact Officer

Erin Dale, Commander

Customs Compliance

Ph: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Mob: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Instances	date of detection	state	Item	Industry	Company s. 47G(1)(a)	Country	Action taken s. 37(2)(a), s. 37(2)(b)
2	May-15	QLD	Building Materials	sample tiles		PNG	
1	May-15	QLD	Building Materials	Modular Wall		PRC	
1	Nov-14	WA	Mining and oil gas	Gaskets		Thailand	
1	Jan-15	WA	Mining and Oil gas	Gaskets		Thailand	
1	Sep-14	SA	Vehicle products	Brake Pads		PRC	
1	Mar-15	WA	deisel motor parts	Gaskets		PRC	
1	May-15	WA	On vessel	Goods		NZ and UAE	
1		WA					
1	Oct-11	QLD		Goods			
1	Aug-12	QLD		Goods		Indonesia	

Instances	date of detection	state	Item	Industry	Company	Country	Action taken
1	Jul-12	WA		Goods	s. 47G(1)(a)		s. 37(2)(a), s. 37(2)(b)
1	Dec-12	WA		Gaskets		China	
1	Jun-10	QLD		Gaskets		China	
1	Nov-13	SA		Train Parts			
1	Jun-06						
1	2012			Prohibited imports			