



Information Kit on Testing Fixed Height Chairs

1 Test Levels

Most furniture standards in Australia and overseas are performance standards - they take an "accelerated lifetime" approach. Naturally, the lifetime will depend on the application in which a product is used - some situations will be far harder on furniture than others. This is often addressed in Standards by designing test levels that reflect the relative severity of various uses.

The Australian/New Zealand Standard for Fixed Height Chairs (AS/NZS 4688:2000) has four test levels as listed below:

Level 3	Domestic	Chairs and stools for general domestic use.
Level 4	General Commercial	Chairs and stools for heavy domestic use, general office, contract hospitality and executive use.
Level 5	Heavy Commercial	Chairs and stools for heavy duty office, hospitality, industrial and similar applications.
Level 6	Severe Commercial	Chairs and stools for extremely heavy conditions.

The Standard is based on the British BS 4875 Parts 1 and 2, which was later adopted as ISO 7173 and 7174. Levels 1 and 2 in the original Standard are not used in Australia or New Zealand.

Published by Furntech-AFRDI, the Australasian Furnishing Research and Development Institute, an independent not-for-profit technical organisation serving furniture buyers and sellers in Australia and New Zealand.

T: (03) 6326 6155 **F:** (03) 6326 3090 **E:** info@furntech.org.au

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2 Testing Costs

The cost of testing fixed height chairs is as follows:

Per chair	Level 4	\$3,165
	Level 5	\$3,870
	Level 6	\$3,990

Prices are subject to 10% GST and membership discount.

These charges include:

- freight to and from the nearest Furntech depot (see Section 6);
- up to three back sizes if they share the same construction and shape and are supplied with the sample chair - normally low, medium and high); and
- Blue Tick Product Certification for three years (other than Level 3).

Note: \$440, plus GST, less membership discount, will need to be added to the testing cost if the chair incorporates a swivel mechanism.

\$430, plus GST, less membership discount, will need to be added to the testing cost if chair incorporates a footring/footrail.

\$115, plus GST, less membership discount, will need to be added to the testing cost if chair incorporates a writing tablet.

3 Payment

Furntech policy is that **PAYMENT MUST BE MADE BEFORE TESTING COMMENCES**. Please phone 03 6326 6155 to request an invoice if this will help to facilitate payment. Facilities are available for payments by Visa and MasterCard.

In the event that the chair fails a test early in the process and further testing is not possible or desirable, a credit towards future charges will be issued for the unused portion of the test fee.

4 Blue Tick Certification

Blue Tick certification is open to suppliers whose products meet the required standard. The concept is that for Furntech to endorse a product, the Institute needs to have an on-going contractual relationship with the supplier that ensures purchasers can rely on certificates of endorsement. Monitoring involves regular random audits and the investigation of complaints arising from the sale of endorsed products.

Under the Blue Tick product certification program, suppliers agree to:

- maintain quality of production to at least that of the sample tested;
- advise of changes in the product including changes in materials, components and means and place of manufacturer;
- not use (nor permit its agents to use) the logo to promote goods which are not covered by the agreement or to misrepresent the nature of Furntech's endorsement;
- keep and make available a register of complaints arising from the sale of goods covered by the agreement;
- submit goods for retesting every three years if required or as necessary when standards change;
- agree to random checks of the quality of products covered by the agreement;
- maintain an adequate product liability insurance cover; and
- pay a monitoring fee - the first three years monitoring fee is included in the testing charge.

In return, Furntech agrees to:

- permit the use of the AFRDI logo to promote goods covered by the agreement; and
- commend goods covered by the agreement in lists circulated to specifiers and purchasers.

A copy of the agreement is available on request.

Furntech publishes lists of certified products on its website www.furntech.org.au

An updated list will be faxed upon request, free of charge.

Further information on the Blue Tick Product Certification Scheme is available on request.

5 What You Get

Assuming that the product complies and that you are prepared to sign a Blue Tick product certification agreement, at the end of the process Furntech will:

- issue a Test Report and a product certification certificate;
- mark with paint the sample that has been found to comply and return it to the supplier (this marked sample is in effect part of the certificate of compliance and must be retained);
- enter into a product certification agreement with the supplier of the chair or add the chair to an existing product certification agreement - the first three years monitoring fee is included in the testing charge; and
- add the product to the Furntech list of endorsed products under the Furntech Blue Tick Product Certification Scheme.

If you are not prepared to sign the Blue Tick agreement, the results of the testing will be provided in a way which does not imply endorsement by Furntech.

Note: If Blue Tick certification is subsequently required, an administration fee of \$250, plus GST, will be required to reopen the testing file.

6 Freight

Refer to the Institute's [Information Kit on Freight to Furntech-AFRDI](#). Distribution of this Kit in hardcopy form will include the freight-related information as a supplementary sheet.

7 Timing

Freight normally takes between 7 and 14 days and the testing process for Level 4 takes from three to four weeks, while Levels 5 and 6 take approximately one week longer.

When the chair, the Testing Request form and payment are all received, the item will be placed on the testing schedule and an estimated completion date supplied.

8 Confidentiality

Testing conducted at Furntech is absolutely confidential. The Institute's procedures prohibit the disclosure of the fact that an item is being tested and the results of any such testing without the express permission of the person who signed the Testing Request form.

To assist us to preserve the confidentiality of other customers, we request three working days notice of an intended visit to the Institute's laboratory.

9 The Next Step

If you wish to proceed with testing, please follow these steps:

- 1 copy the Testing Request form, Information Sheet and checklist and complete both for each chair. Fax a copy to Furntech and attach a copy to the chair;
- 2 mark the name of the company and the model name/number on each chair; and
- 3 calculate payment required from the price list at the front of this paper and send your payment to Furntech (we also take Visa and MasterCard). Please phone 03 63 266 155 to request an invoice if this will help to facilitate payment.

10 Before Dispatch

PLEASE MARK THE MODEL NAME/NUMBER ON EACH CHAIR BEFORE DISPATCH.

The name should match that used on the Testing Request Form. To assist with matching chairs with the Testing Request forms, please attach a copy of the Testing Request form to each chair.

11 Queries

If you have any problems with any of this please phone Furntech on 03 6326 6155.

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Testing Request – Fixed Height Chairs

Please complete for **each model** to be tested and **fax (03 6326 3090)** or **email (info@furntech.org.au)** one copy and attach another to the sample before dispatch.
All fields must be completed.

ORGANISATION:

PRIMARY CONTACT: (*Who do we contact during testing?*)

STREET ADDRESS:

.....P/CODE:.....

TEL: FAX:.....

WEB:.....

EMAIL:..... ABN:.....

FACTORY NAME:.....

FACTORY ADDRESS:

..... COUNTRY:..... P/CODE:.....

IS FOOTRING TESTING REQUIRED: YES NO

Product Description

MODEL NAME/NUMBER: (*PRINT the name you wish to appear on the certificate*)

.....

TEST LEVEL:.....

PROTOTYPE* PRODUCTION SAMPLE

***NOTE: No certificate will be issued for a prototype, and it therefore will not appear on the Furntech-AFRDI Webpage. After prototype testing, a further *production sample* will need to be submitted for full testing at *additional cost* before the product is certified.**

Authorisations and Declaration

I warrant and declare that the information provided is accurate in every detail.

I authorise Furntech-AFRDI or its agents to carry out tests at the quoted price.

Signature of authorised officer:

Name: (*PRINT*)

Position in company: Date:

OPTIONAL: Should the product(s) described above be found to comply with the relevant Standard, I authorise Furntech-AFRDI to publicise the fact on its website

YES NO

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INFORMATION SHEET AND CHECKLIST

The following information is required for each chair to be tested.

Name of Company: (one company name only).....

Model Name/Number (one name only)

Material and Component Information Required

Component	Supplier	Model identification	Test Report No.
Castors			
Base			
Seat plate			
Seat Foam - density			
Seat Foam - flammability			
Backrest Foam - density			
Backrest Foam - flammability			

Detailed Description of Chair

Frame Construction (timber/metal or other) specify	
Seat type (plastic/upholstered/wooden or other) specify	
Back type (plastic/upholstered/wooden or other) specify	
Frame type (4 leg/sled/cantilever/swivel) specify	
Is the chair stacking or non-stacking?	

Care

Upholstered chairs shall be labelled according to the care labelling requirements as set out in AS/NZS 1957.

Authorisation

I warrant that the information above is accurate.

Signature of
 Authorised Officer.....Date.....

Name (print).....

Position in Company.....