

Information Kit on Testing Desks & Workstations

1 Standards

Desks and workstations are covered by Australian/New Zealand Standards published in 1997 - AS/NZS 4442 - *Desks* and AS/NZS 4443 - *Office panel systems - Workstations*. There is a great deal of commonality between them, particularly in relation to ergonomic measurements and strength requirements. Copies of the standards are available from Furntech or from Standards Australia.

The Desk Standard covers "freestanding desks such as single and double pedestal desks and extended desk units, both adjustable and fixed height". Office panel systems or "workstations" differ from desks in that they are not "freestanding" - panels or screens provide at least some of the support for the work surface.

2 Test Levels

Unlike the standard for office chairs, AS/NZS 4442 and AS/NZS 4443 do not have test levels. Specifiers may set harder or less rigorous tests but it is considered that the Australian Standards provide sufficient assurance that the products will provide good service over and beyond a reasonable life.

3 Costs

Furntech's aim is to certify whole ranges rather than single pieces. One test of the largest item would normally cover all variations in shape and size provided that:

- the ergonomic measurements are within limits defined in the Standard;
- the overhang requiring cantilever support is no greater than that in the tested sample and the product is stable;
- the area of the work surface and other load bearing surfaces is no greater than that of the tested sample; and
- materials and methods of construction used are the same as that used in the sample.

The cost of testing desks and workstations to these Australian/New Zealand Standards depends on the nature of the product and the range of extras included in the range.

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The usual process is for brochures and other sales information to be submitted and a quotation given. While every effort is made to keep to the quoted figure, it sometimes needs to be varied down or up once the products are submitted.

The quoted prices include product certification under the AFRDI Blue Tick Program for a period of three years and freight between the closest Furntech depot and the laboratory.

If tests have to be repeated due to failure, a further charge will be made for reassembling the sample and repeating the tests and for freight if our freight system is used to deliver replacement samples and/or parts.

Additional fees apply for extra features like hutches, shelves, drawers, keyboard supports, work surface returns and surface resistance.

Prices are subject to 10% GST.

NOTES:

Member Discounts

Furntech members receive discounts on testing and research fees. Information on Furntech membership is available from the Institute and our website.

Mobile Pedestal

These are tested to AS 5079.3.

Return

If made as a separate piece this is tested separately - "L" shaped desks are included in the desk price.

Drawers

Freestanding drawers are not covered by these standards but may be tested to ANSI/BIFMA X5.5 or BS 4875, Parts 7 & 8.

Electric

No allowance is made for electrical assessment or for electrically operated height adjustment. Price on application.

Resistance to Humidity

Testing cost will depend on size. Note that this test takes approximately 9 weeks.

Acoustic Testing

There are a number of laboratories that can do this work in Australia. .

4 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 payment by Visa and MasterCard.

In the event that the sample 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.

5 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.

6 Timing

Freight normally takes between 7 and 14 days. The time required for testing will depend on availability of equipment, but would typically be between three to four weeks.

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

7 AFRDI Blue Tick Certification

AFRDI 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 AFRDI 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;

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- 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. These are released to the industry media and may be distributed with the Furntech Newsletter every two or three months. In addition, lists of certified products are also maintained on the very popular Furntech website, www.funtech.org.au

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

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

8 What You Get

Assuming that the product complies and that you are prepared to sign an AFRDI 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 product or add the product 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 AFRDI Blue Tick Product Certification Scheme.

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

9 The Next Step

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

- 1 send a brochure or other promotional material plus notes explaining what parts of your product range you wish to have certified;
- 2 if you accept the quotation provided, copy the Testing Request form and complete it for each range. Fax a copy to Furntech and attach a copy to the sample;
- 3 mark the name of the company and the model name/number on each sample; and
- 4 arrange for payment of the quoted amount (we accept Visa and MasterCard). Please phone 03 63 266 155 to request an invoice if this will help to facilitate payment.

10 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 require three working days notice of an intended visit to the Institute's laboratory.

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Testing Request – Desks & Workstations

Tested to AS/NZS 4442 or AS/NZS 4443

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:.....

Product Description

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

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:

Test sample(s) will not normally be returned. If you do want them returned, please indicate here (note extra freight charges will apply):

YES

Any significant issues pending/impending with product (e.g. field failures, claims, recalls)?

YES (if yes, please attach summary) NO

OPTIONAL: Should the product(s) described above be certified by Furntech-AFRDI, I authorise Furntech-AFRDI to list the compliance certificate on its website.

YES NO

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