



Information Kit on Folding Cot Testing

1. Introduction

The purpose of this information Kit is to provide:

- information about services available from Furntech-AFRDI for demonstrating that children's folding cots meet legal and general safety requirement based on independent assessment;
- details of the product certification system offered by Furntech-AFRDI in relation to folding cots;
- an outline of the procedures to be followed in having folding cots tested by Furntech-AFRDI, including information on payment, timing, freight, expected outcomes, and getting started;
- an outline of the general cost structure for testing of families of folding cots having mainly common features; and
- a copy of Furntech-AFRDI Testing request pro-forma which indicates the information to be supplied to Furntech-AFRDI with any folding cot sent for testing.

In this Information Kit the Commonwealth of Australia Consumer Protection Notice Number 4 of 2008 Consumer Product Safety Standard: Children's Portable Folding Cots is referred to as the **Consumer Protection Notice** (or CPN) and the Australian New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 2195:2010 *Folding Cots – Safety requirements*, will be referred to as the **Folding Cot Standard**.

Assessments involve making a series of measurements and undertaking a series of strength, stability and durability tests. These are undertaken at Furntech-AFRDI. Other tests (eg toxicity of coatings) may also be required.

Folding Cot models which are essentially the same – that is varying only in cosmetic ways – may be treated as one model for the purposes of certification. The assessor will make judgements about the degree of similarity after inspecting the models (see section 6).

Prototypes

We are happy to assess prototypes. Assessment is often undertaken to help ensure compliance prior to the expensive stage of tooling up for production.

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However, although we will assess prototypes, we are not prepared to certify them. Prototypes that have been successfully tested will receive a test report only. The report will relate to the compliance of the particular sample that was tested i.e. it will not be a statement of general product endorsement. A certification agreement will only be entered into after an off-tool production sample has been satisfactorily assessed (see section 5).

If you wish to have a prototype assessed please identify the item as a prototype on the Testing Request form attached.

2. Safety requirements for folding cots

The following notes have been drafted by way of general explanation of the requirements of the Consumer Protection Notice. For specific details readers should refer to the primary document which may be accessed from the following web address: [Portable Folding Cot Mandatory Regulation](#)

The minimum safety requirements for folding cots offered for sale in Australia are specifically defined in the Consumer Protection Notice which came into effect on 1 March 2009. It is a legal obligation on all persons or organisations offering folding cots for sale in Australia that the folding cots meet the safety requirements defined in the Consumer Protection Notice.

Because the requirements of the Consumer Protection Notice are a subset of the requirements of AS/NZS 2195:1999, folding cots which demonstrate full compliance with the Folding Cot Standard (AS/NZS 2172:2010) can validly claim compliance with the Consumer Protection Notice.

2.1. Safety Recommendations

The ACCC Product Safety Website contains information on folding cots that is worth viewing.

<http://www.productsafety.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/974944>

3. Furntech-AFRDI

Furntech-AFRDI is a not for profit organisation (owned by its members) which specialises in testing of furniture for the Australian market.

Furntech-AFRDI is certified by NATA (the National Association of Testing Authorities) as a laboratory with the quality systems, equipment and expertise to test folding cots to both the Consumer Protection Notice and AS/NZS 2195.

The Institute participates in the development of standards for nursery furniture and has tested more cots to these Standards than anyone else in Australia and New Zealand.

4. Product certification

Furntech-AFRDI offers product certification systems known as Furntech Orange Tick or AFRDI Blue Tick under which products which have been successfully tested are accorded certificates which are issued contingent on undertakings by the holders of such certificates that they will maintain the quality of the product and advise of any changes made to the product for the period of validity of the certificate.

Furntech Orange Tick and AFRDI Blue Tick certifications are now recognised widely within the furniture industry in Australia as a sign of quality and are frequently required in tender and contract specifications.

Furntech-AFRDI has determined that the minimum requirement for Furntech Orange Tick certification for folding cots is compliance with the Consumer Protection Notice.

Full compliance with the requirements of the Folding Cot Standard (AS/NZS 2195:2010) qualifies a folding cot for AFRDI Blue Tick certification.

For further information regarding AFRDI Blue Tick product certification refer to our website.

5. Costs

Please contact Furntech-AFRDI for current Furntech Orange Tick and AFRDI Blue Tick prices.

Discounts on AFRDI Blue Tick testing and certification costs of up to 20 percent are available for Furntech-AFRDI members. Information on Furntech-AFRDI membership is available from the Institute and our website.

A 10% discount is available to members of the Infant and Nursery Products Accreditation and Approval (INPAA). Information on joining INPAA is available from the Director, Tim Wain on 03 9762 7038.

Prices include freight for one sample to and from the laboratory from our depot in each Australian capital city. In the case of variations to a tested product, we need to see the tested folding cot and the proposed alternatives and the price covers freight of both.

6. Payment

Furntech-AFRDI 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.

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7. Timing

Because the Standard requires that folding cots be conditioned in a controlled atmosphere, the testing process takes about two to three weeks for each folding cot. Assessments are scheduled in order of receipt of the folding cot complete with the Testing Request form and the relevant fee.

8. 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.

9. What You Get

Assuming that the folding cot complies, at the end of the process Furntech-AFRDI will:

- issue a Certificate if Furntech Orange Tick certified or issue a certificate and test report if AFRDI Blue Tick certified, *and*
- mark with paint a 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 should be retained should the supplier wish to rely on the assessment in the future).

Non-complying items may be returned if required, at the customer's expense otherwise they will be destroyed.

10. The Starting Point

The starting point for any folding cot manufacturer or importer who wishes to market folding cots in Australia is to study the Consumer Protection Notice and the Folding Cot Standard.

Copies of AS/NZS 2195 are available from SAI Global:

<http://infostore.saiglobal.com/store/Details.aspx?ProductID=1384504>

In our experience over the last few years, most manufacturers find that the first folding cot they submit for assessment has a number of problems. The second and subsequent models submitted by a supplier usually have far fewer problems. This suggests that suppliers who think their products comply and who rely on their own assessments may be exposed to prosecution along with their distributors and retailers.

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Testing Request – Folding Cots

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:.....

STANDARD TO BE TESTED: Consumer Product Safety Standard
 AS/NZS 2195:2010

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

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.

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