



Information Kit on Testing Bunk Beds

1 The Standard

Furntech is the only laboratory certified by NATA to test to the Australian/New Zealand Standard for Bunk Beds - AS/NZS 4220. The standard covers safety requirements and strength, durability and stability performance.

2 Assessments

Assessment involves making a series of measurements and undertaking a series of strength, stability and durability tests. These are undertaken at Furntech-AFRDI. Other tests (e.g. toxicity of coatings and plastic components) may also be required.

Bunk models which are essentially the same – that is vary 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.

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. 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 4).

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

General

1. In respect to the determination of unacceptable protrusions and snag hazards there is some debate as to appropriate methods of testing. Furntech-AFRDI uses the Ball and Chain test as a guide to the evaluation of potential snag hazards (the principle and application of which is described in AS/NZS 2195 – 1999 Folding cots – safety requirements).

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The objectionable feature of snagging is that it can involve hanging and possible death which can be quite rapid. Because of this Furntech is more than comfortable in taking a conservative approach to assessing for possible snag points.

2. Many instances of harm in relation to the use of bunk beds are due to children falling from them. Bunks with accessories encouraging children to play on or around them are likely to increase the probability of this or other injury events occurring. As a consequence the latest edition the standard (2010) does not permit bunks to be designed with play features unless those features are less than 700mm above floor level. Additionally play features complying with this height requirement must also comply with all relevant Australian/New Zealand Standards, including the AS/NZS ISO 8124 series and AS 4685 series (the standards for Safety of toys and Playground equipment respectively). Therefore, bunks including height compliant play features such as slides, basketball hoops etc will, in addition to the tests undertaken on the basic bunk, require to have those add-ons tested against other relevant standards (or parts thereof) to achieve overall product compliance. We regard *play features* as items 'extra to the normal features of a bunk' but exclude additions such as desks and shelves where the design emphasis is clearly not directed towards play. Where no relevant standard exists for the type of play accessory featured we will assess to our own requirements with the emphasis being on 'proof of safety'. In most cases where additional testing is required additional testing charges will be applicable. Please feel free to contact us in advance to discuss testing options.
3. AS/NZS 4220:2010 includes a requirement for the toxicological conformance of coatings and plastic components to the levels specified in AS/NZS ISO 8124.3. Furntech-AFRDI does not undertake these tests but can arrange to have them performed externally or leave this to the client to organise themselves. Component and coatings suppliers may already have the information available on request. As the cost to test will vary widely between bunks (according to the number of components requiring assay and the toxicological information that may be already available) in all cases the cost of this testing will not be included in our quotation to you unless specifically stated.

3 Costs

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

Laboratory assessment

- ◆ An **assessment fee** (depends on complexity of design) including return delivery between any of our freight depots and the testing laboratory; and
- ◆ A **certification fee** for each product found to comply with the safety standard. Complying products will be listed as compliant on our website.

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It is occasionally possible to minimise the cost of testing by grouping models produced with common measurements, construction methods and materials.

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 in blue 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.furntech.org.au

An updated list will be available 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 product certification 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 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.

6 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 Bankcard, Visa and MasterCard.

In the event that the bunk bed 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.

7 Required Markings

Before dispatch, please check that each bunk bed meets the marking and labelling requirements of the Standard.

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 Timing

Freight normally takes between 7 and 14 days, while the testing process takes from two to three 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.

10 Confidentiality

Testing conducted at Furntech-AFRDI 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 client's express permission.

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.

11 The Next Step

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

- if you haven't done so already, purchase a copy of the Standard - it is available from Furntech or from Standards Australia at the same price;
- copy the Testing Request form and complete it for each model. Fax or e-mail a copy to Furntech and attach a copy to the sample;
- mark the name of the company and the model name/number on each sample; and
- calculate payment required and send your payment to Furntech (we also take Visa and MasterCard). Please phone 03 6326 6155 to request an invoice if this will help to facilitate payment.

12 Queries

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

Testing Request - Bunk Beds

Please complete for each model to be tested and fax one copy to 03 6326 3090 and attach the other to the sample before dispatch.

- * Name of Organisation:
- * Name of Contact (a):
- * Address of Organisation (b):Postcode.....
- * Telephone Number:
- Fax Number:
- Email:
- Website:
- ABN Number:
- * Description of Product:
- Model Name/Number (c):
- * Factory Name (d):
- * Factory Address (d):
- * Prototype/Production sample (indicate which is applicable).....
- * Test Level:
- Cost of Testing (exc. GST): \$.....

* It is mandatory that information be entered in these fields.

Authorisations

I hereby authorise Furntech or its agents to carry out the tests described above at the agreed price.

Should the product(s) described above be found to comply with the relevant standard, I authorise Furntech-AFRDI to :

(Optional – strike out where permission is not given)

- publicise the fact.
- publish a certificate of compliance on the Furntech AFRDI website

Signature of Authorised Officer

Date

NOTES

- (a) Please insert the name of the person Furntech staff should contact, if necessary, concerning the tests.
- (b) Please insert street address.
- (c) Please print the name and/or number of the product you wish to appear on the test report.
- (d) Please specify the street address and name of the factory in which the product is made.