



# ***Information Kit on the Assessment and Orange Tick Certification of Bunk Beds to the Australian Bunk Bed Regulation***

## **Introduction**

This document outlines the process by which Furntech-AFRDI independently assess bunk beds to the requirements outlined in the Commonwealth of Australia Consumer Protection Notice Number 1 of 2003 Consumer Product Safety Standard: Bunk Beds (from here on referred to as "the Regulation") and certify complying bunk beds under Furntech's Orange Tick Certification Program.

Selling a bunk bed (See bunk bed definition) that does not meet the requirements of the Regulation can lead to criminal and/or civil prosecution by the ACCC.

## **Definition of a Bunk Bed**

The Regulation is applicable to bunk beds, which the Regulation defines as:

- a) a set of components that are assembled or are ready for assembly into single beds or double/single combination which will be stacked one over the other; or
- b) any single bed, other than a hospital bed, where the upper surface of the mattress base is at least 800 mm above the floor surface.

Prior to seeking Furntech Orange Tick Certification we strongly recommend that you read the Regulation in conjunction with AS/NZS 4220:1994 - Bunk beds.

The Regulation can be downloaded from the ACCC website:

<http://www.accc.gov.au/content/index.php?id=268595/fromItemId/6191>

The Standard can be purchased and downloaded from SAI Global website:

<http://www.saiglobal.com>

A summary of the Regulation is available to current Furntech-AFRDI Orange Tick Certification holders and to Furntech-AFRDI Associate and Full Members. The Membership subscription form can be downloaded from the following link:

[http://www.furntech.org.au/pdf/Corporate/MembershipInformation/Membform.pdf?&MMN\\_position=13:13](http://www.furntech.org.au/pdf/Corporate/MembershipInformation/Membform.pdf?&MMN_position=13:13)

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The Regulation's requirements derive from the Australian/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 4220:1994. The Regulation only references part of AS/NZS 4220:1994. Therefore a bunk bed that complies with the Regulation will not necessarily comply with AS/NZS 4220. There are also more recent 2003 and 2010 versions of the Australian/New Zealand bunk bed Standard, however the Regulation does not reference them (all current testing and certification to the full standard, AS/NZS 4220, would be to the requirements of the 2010 edition which supersedes the 2003 edition). Testing a bunk bed to AS/NZS 4220:2010 in its entirety is covered in a separate information kit:

<http://www.furntech.org.au/pdf/ResidentialFurniture/BunkBeds/4220info.pdf>

**The Regulation consists primarily of dimensional and marking criteria, it does not require a bunk to undergo strength, durability, stability or toxicity testing. Strength, durability, stability and toxicity tests as well as additional dimensional criteria are covered by AS/NZS 4220:2010 *Bunk beds*. If distributors or retailers want to specify a bunk's strength, durability, stability and toxicity properties then testing to or above the requirements of AS/NZS 4220:2010 is recommended.**

## Assessments

Assessment of a bunk bed to the Regulation can be undertaken at Furntech-AFRDI or offsite (e.g. at your own premises). Timing of offsite testing is dependent upon the availability of Furntech-AFRDI staff. In cases where results are required urgently we strongly recommend that the assessment be conducted at our laboratory and the product sent via an express freight service (client's expense).

Where bunk models are essentially the same i.e. vary only slightly in design, each variation must still be assessed by Furntech-AFRDI and must be compliant to the Regulation before it can be certified. Depending on the similarity between models, full assessment of one bunk and partial assessment of the remainder may be possible. However, the degree of similarity and assessment required will need to be determined by Furntech-AFRDI after inspecting the models.

### PLEASE NOTE:

#### **Prototypes**

Assessment of prototypes is worthwhile to help ensure later 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 successfully completed testing 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.

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

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## **Attached play accessories**

Many instances of harm in relation to bunk beds are due to children falling from them. Bunks with attached accessories encouraging children to play on or around them are likely to increase the probability of this or other injury related events occurring. As a consequence Furntech-AFRDI feels a responsibility to apply at least some level of scrutiny to these accessories prior to granting certification. Therefore, bunks built with attached play accessories such as slides, basketball hoops etc will, in addition to the basic bunk's assessment to the Regulation, require to have those add-ons tested against relevant standards (or parts thereof) to achieve overall product safety compliance. The principle being: *'assessment of the total product (including attached accessories where appropriate) to the bunk Regulation, plus attached play accessories to additional relevant standards'*. Since extra testing is required additional testing charges will be applicable.

## **Other attached accessories**

We regard attached accessories as items 'extra to the normal features of a bunk'. Where we consider a bunk's attached accessories to be so designed to present obvious hazards, we will require the accessories to be tested to a relevant Standard. Generally speaking, attached accessories such as desks and shelves do not require additional testing (unless they were so designed to present obvious hazards). It is typically only those features which are 'play accessories' that will require additional testing as discussed above. Where no relevant standard exists for the type of accessory featured we would 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.

## **Costs**

### **Laboratory assessment (at Furntech-AFRDI)**

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

### **Off site assessment (at client's premises)**

- ◆ An **assessment fee** (depends on complexity of design) including airfares, accommodation, travel time; and
- ◆ A **certification fee** for each product found to comply with the Regulation. Complying products will be listed as compliant on our website.

**The fees are payable in advance and must be received before the assessment. An invoice will be provided on request if this will help to facilitate payment. Facilities are available for payment by Visa and MasterCard.**

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## Freight

Please 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.

## Certificate of Compliance

Once a bunk has been found to comply with the Regulation a certificate of compliance is issued. The certificate of compliance may be used to satisfy distributors, retailers and regulators that the product complies with the Regulation. To ensure that the product continues to comply, the Institute enters into a contract with the supplier and maintains an on-going check on the quality of the product over a three year period, after which the certificate can be renewed.

Monitoring involves periodic audits and the investigation of complaints arising from the sale of endorsed products.

Under the Certificate of Compliance contract, 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 manufacture;
- not use (nor permit its agents to use) the Certificate of Compliance to promote goods which are not covered by the agreement;
- submit goods for reassessment at least every three years or as necessary when the requirements of the Regulation change;
- agree to random checks of the quality of products covered by the agreement;
- pay a monitoring fee - the first three years monitoring fee is included in the initial assessment charge.

In return, Furntech-AFRDI agrees to issue a Certificate of Compliance and to commend goods covered by Certificates of Compliance in lists on the Institute's website. A copy of the agreement is available on request.

If a bunk is certified the test result owner (e.g. a wholesaler) can permit a second company (e.g. a retailer) to take out certification of the bunk. **Before** the bunk can be certified under the second company's name Furntech-AFRDI must receive written confirmation of this from the test result owner. Both companies need to confirm that the bunk is the same in all respects and the second company will need to pay a certification fee. The bunk will be listed twice on our website under both the first and second company's name. The second company will also have the opportunity to use our Orange Tick Logo when marketing the bunk.

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## The Next Step

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

- a) Send an image, diagram or description of the bunk to [info@furntech.org.au](mailto:info@furntech.org.au) and request a quote for assessment to the Regulation;
- b) Once the quote has been received complete the Assessment Request Form (on page 6) and return it to Furntech-AFRDI; and
- c) Send your payment to Furntech-AFRDI (we also take Visa and MasterCard). Please phone (03) 6326 6155 to request an invoice if this will help to facilitate payment.
- d) Depending on which is applicable send the bunk to Furntech-AFRDI or contact Furntech-AFRDI to schedule a date for a Testing Officer to conduct the bunk assessment at your premises.

## Confidentiality

Testing conducted by Furntech-AFRDI is absolutely confidential. The Institute's procedures prohibit the disclosure of the fact that an item is being assessed and the results of any such assessment without the client's express permission.

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## Assessment Request Form–Bunk Beds

***Safety Requirements of Commonwealth Consumer Protection Notice Number 1 of 2003 Consumer Product Safety Standard: Bunk Beds***

- \* Name of Organisation: .....
- \* Name of Contact (a): .....
- \* Postal Address .....
- .....
- \* Telephone Number: .....
- Fax Number: .....
- Email: .....
- Website: .....
- ABN Number: .....
- \* Factory Name (b): .....
- \* Factory Address (b): .....
- Product Names (c): .....
- .....
- .....

Prototype/Production sample (indicate which is applicable)

Certificate of compliance to be uploaded to Furntech's website? Circle one: **Yes/No**

### Authorisations & Declaration

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

Should the product(s) described above be found to comply with the Regulation, I authorise Furntech-AFRDI to publicise the fact and agree to enter into an agreement to maintain the Certificate of Compliance.

I hereby declare that the above is accurate.

Signature of Authorised Officer .....

Date .....

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#### NOTES

- (a) Please insert the name of the person Furntech-AFRDI staff should contact.
- (b) Please specify the street address and name of the factory in which the product is made.
- (c) Please print the name and/or number of the product you wish to appear on the Certificate.

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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. **Telephone 03 6326 6155, Fax 03 6326 3090, email [info@furntech.org.au](mailto:info@furntech.org.au)**