



Information Kit on Testing Bunk Beds

1 The Standards

Furntech-AFRDI tests and certifies bunks based on the following:

- Consumer Protection Notice No. 1 of 2003: *Consumer product safety standard: bunk beds* (referred to here as the **CPN**), and
- Australian/New Zealand Standard for Bunk Beds - **AS/NZS 4220:2010**, and
- **AFRDI 152 Bunk Beds for People up to 135 kg.**

The CPN is the mandatory minimum requirement for bunks sold in Australia. It's a cut down (and to some extent modified) version of AS/NZS 4220:1994. Its main focus is on dimensional compliance and marking and labelling, but it also includes clauses precluding sharp edges and protrusions. There are, however, **no tests covering the strength, durability, stability or toxicity of the bunk (or any of its components)**. See our kit [here](#) for information focused specifically on testing to the CPN.

The current Australian Standard (AS/NZS 4220:2010) covers a more comprehensive set of safety requirements including strength, durability, stability and toxicity evaluations. However, it was developed with the domestic environment in mind and its strength, durability and stability tests are considered inappropriate for non-domestic applications or for heavy domestic use by older teenagers or adults.

AFRDI 152 includes either the same or more severe adaptations of all the tests included in AS/NZS 4220:2010 as well as additional tests to establish a level of compliance suitable for heavy duty use by people up to 135 kg in both non-domestic and domestic environments.

2 Assessments

CPN

Assessment involves making a series of measurements. These may be taken at your premises or undertaken at Furntech-AFRDI.

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AS/NZS 4220:2010 and AFRDI 152

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) will also be required.

Combinations

If an assessment is satisfactorily made based on the CPN, compliance with the CPN is all that will be able to be claimed.

If an assessment is satisfactorily made based on AS/NZS 4220:2010, compliance with that, and the CPN, will in nearly all instances be able to be claimed. Please let us know in advance if that is what you want to appear on your certificate.

If an assessment is satisfactorily made based on AFRDI 152, compliance with that, and AS/NZS 4220:2010, and the CPN, will in nearly all instances be able to be claimed. Please let us know in advance if that is what you want to appear on your certificate.

Similar models

TESTING

When testing to the CPN, all similar models of bunks that have any significant dimensional variations will need to be assessed separately. We will not certify any model we have not directly evaluated.

When testing to AS/NZS 4220:2010 and/or AFRDI 152, similar models with any significant dimensional variations will also be treated as above. However, models which are structurally the same—but which may vary slightly in cosmetic ways—will normally be treated as one model for the purpose of structural evaluation.

In both cases the assessor will make judgements about the degree of similarity after inspecting the models.

CERTIFICATION

Bunk models which are either structurally different, or very similar but with cosmetic variations, or even actually the same—but with different names, will normally be listed on separate certificates.

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).

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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).
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 and AFRDI 152 include 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. Toxicity test costs are excluded from membership discounts.

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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 delivery from you or our freight depots to 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.

It is sometimes possible to reduce the cost of testing by grouping models produced with common measurements, construction methods and materials (see also *Similar models* section 2).

4 AFRDI Certification

AFRDI 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 audits and the investigation of complaints arising from the sale of endorsed products.

Under AFRDI product certification programs, 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; and
- maintain an adequate product liability insurance cover.

In return, Furntech agrees to:

- permit the use of the appropriate AFRDI logo to promote goods covered by the agreement; and
- commend goods covered by the agreement in lists published on its website.

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A copy of the agreement is available on request.

Lists of certified products are also maintained on the very popular Furntech website, www.furntech.org.au

Further information on AFRDI Product Certification is available on request.

5 What You Get

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

- issue a product certification certificate (and a Test Report at an additional cost if requested); and
- 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 appropriate AFRDI Product Certification Scheme.

If you do not wish to enter into a certification agreement, the results of the testing will be provided in a way which does not imply product 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 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 and be available for a period of 3 years from the date of engagement.

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.

The product will only be returned to the supplier if requested (at additional cost).

9 Timing

Freight normally takes between 7 and 21 days, while the testing process takes from one to three weeks depending on which assessment is undertaken.

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

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 written 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-based on our quotation-you wish to proceed with testing, please follow these steps:

- copy the Testing Request form and complete it for each model. E-mail a copy to Furntech and attach a copy to the sample; and
- mark the name of the company and the model name/number on each sample; and
- note payment required and send your payment to Furntech (we also accept 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.

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Testing Request – Bunk Beds

Please complete for **each model** to be tested and **email** (admin@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 (MANUFACTURER) NAME.....

FACTORY (MANUFACTURER) ADDRESS.....

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

Product Description

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

.....

ASSESSMENT BASED ON: CPN AS/NZS 4220:2010 AFRDI 152

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 can be 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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