



Information Kit on Testing Leather for Furniture

Introduction

This kit was produced to provide background information for people interested in having leather tested to the requirements of the AFRDI 146 Leather Standard. Furntech-AFRDI's product certification program covers leather for use as furniture upholstery. Any additional information, which is not covered within the scope of this kit, is available from the Institute upon request.

Requirements

The requirements in the AFRDI Standard 146 – Leather Descriptions Furniture Industry were released in April 2006.

In February 2009 the Standard incorporated the addition of:

- An expanded Scope;
- Revised definitions for all leather types listed in section 3.3;
- An updated list of attributes in section 4;
- A revised and expanded labelling requirements section;
- An expanded description of the certification program in Appendix 3; and
- Some editorial changes.

The Standard firstly requires a description of the product/leather range by the client at the time of submission and then AFRDI initiates testing of various attributes (2 to 13) as follows:

1. Product description, i.e. country of tannage, animal source and leather type;
2. Confirmation of source species;
3. Confirmation that the leather submitted meets ICT definition of leather;
4. Confirmation of leather type;
5. Thickness;
6. Colour fastness to light;
7. Rub fastness (wet, dry and perspiration/sweat);

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8. Colour fastness to water spotting (for Aniline, Nubuck and Pull-up);
9. Finish adhesion (for Semi-aniline, Pigmented, Corrected Grain and Finished Split);
10. Flammability;
11. Flexing endurance (for Pigmented, Corrected Grain and Finished Split);
12. pH and pH difference; and
13. Tear strength.

Costs

The Certification Program includes two (2) parts

- a) Testing cost; and
- b) Certification fee.

a) Testing

Contact the Institute and provide a completed Testing Request form (see page 5) to receive a formal quote for testing. Membership discounts are not applicable to AFRDI 146 testing fees.

b) Certification

Furntech charges for AFRDI 146 certification, less AFRDI or FIAA membership discounts, plus GST. Achieving certification entails inclusion on the list of AFRDI-endorsed products accessible on the Institute's Website at www.furntech.org.au for one year. An annual renewal fee (less membership discounts plus GST) is applicable.

Samples

The minimum size of leather sample required is:

- One piece - 1.5 m² - for each colour submitted for testing. Each piece must be cut such that each side is no less than 0.5 m, i.e. may be oblong in shape.

Samples received by AFRDI must be from final production lines/product ranges to be eligible for AFRDI 146 certification.

Samples received for testing against AFRDI 146 Standard requirements are subject to destructive testing regimes, and therefore cannot be returned/freighted to clients post-test.

Timing

Leather testing takes approximately three (3) weeks.

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

Freight

Please mark the name/job number (if known in advance) on each sample before dispatch.

The name should match that used on the Testing Request Form. To assist with matching samples with the Testing Request forms, please attach a copy of the Testing Request form to each set of samples.

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.

Please also ensure no adhesive labels are affixed to the submitted hides, to prevent foreign residues contaminating or influencing testing.

Note

The type of leather being tested determines the AFRDI 146 testing regime that is applied to a submission.

Where furniture items contain a combination of leather types, all types used in exposed areas will need to be tested and certified to ensure the product can be classified as meeting the requirements of the AFRDI 146 Leather Standard. For example, if Corrected Grain is used in the seating areas and Finished Split on the skirting or backing both types will need to be tested and certified so that the product can be represented as fully compliant and labelled accordingly.

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 express written permission of the client's Authorised Officer.

Representation

Furntech retains an absolute discretion regarding the re-issue of reports and certificates. Documents over three years old will not normally be re-issued.

Attention is drawn to the provisions of Section 29 of the Australian Consumer Law (2010) which prohibits false or misleading representation that *'goods are of a particular standard, quality, value, grade, composition, style or model ...'*

Australian Consumer Law also prohibits the making of false or misleading representation that *'purports to be a testimonial by any person relating to goods or services'*.

Compliance

All clients who successfully achieve AFRDI Leather for Furniture certification and hold current certificates are obliged to comply with the following requirements of the AFRDI 146 Standard:

- Labelling of products upholstered in AFRDI 146 certified leather at the point of sale; and
- Randomised auditing to ensure ongoing compliance.

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 to be made by Visa and MasterCard.

The Next Step

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

- 1 Print the Testing Request form (see page 5) and complete it for each type of leather you wish to submit, fax one copy of this form to Furntech-AFRDI on (03) 6326 3090 and attach another copy to the actual sample before dispatch;
- 2 Mark the name of the company and the name/number on each sample; and
- 3 Phone (03) 6326 6155 to request an invoice to help facilitate payment.

Queries

If you have any questions please contact Furntech-AFRDI direct on (03) 6326 6155 or info@furntech.org.au

