



Information Kit on Plastic Monobloc Chairs

1 The Australian/New Zealand Standard

AS/NZS 3813 - *Plastic monobloc chairs* was published in April 1998. It is the definitive standard on plastic chairs.

2 Test Levels

Most furniture standards in Australia and overseas are performance standards - they take an "accelerated lifetime" approach. Naturally, the lifetime will depend on the application in which a product is used - some situations will be far harder on furniture than others. This is often addressed in Standards by designing test levels which reflect the relative severity of various uses.

AS/NZS 3813 has two test levels. The uses to which each might be appropriate are summarised below:

Domestic	Intended to be used in the home whether it be for indoor or outdoor use.
Commercial	Intended for use in other than domestic premises.

The Standard imposes much more severe requirements on Commercial level chairs. Domestic chairs should not be used in restaurants or other non-domestic applications.

3 Colour Validation

An example of each model (preferably the sample with the darkest pigment) needs to be subjected to all of the tests set out in the Standard. Other chairs made from the same mould and which vary only in colour need not be subjected to the fatigue or stability tests and can therefore be tested at a considerably reduced cost.

NB

Certification pertains only to the colours validated. The approved colour/s will be indicated on the product certificate. No colours, other than those specified on the certificate, can be assumed to have been tested and approved.

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4 Costs

Please contact Furntech-AFRDI for a job quotation.

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

Please note that it is not possible to test chairs to a range of levels or to test to find out what level each chair would be. The owner of each chair needs to nominate the test level required in the light of its construction and intended use.

5 Blue Tick Certification

Blue Tick certification is open to suppliers whose products meet the Domestic or Commercial Level of the 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 to promote goods covered by the agreement; and
- commend goods covered by the agreement in lists circulated to specifiers and purchasers.

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- list the product and product certificate (in PDF format) on our weblist of endorsed products located at www.furntech.org.au

A copy of the agreement is available on request.

Further information on the Blue Tick Product Certification Scheme is available on request.

6 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 chair or add the chair 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.

Note: If Blue Tick certification is subsequently required, an administration fee of \$250, plus GST, will be required to reopen the testing file.

7 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 chair 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.

8 Required Markings

Before dispatch, please check that each chair meets the marking requirements. The Standard requires that each chair be clearly and permanently marked with the following:

- the intended use of the chair - domestic or commercial;
- for domestic chairs the following statement "NOT FOR COMMERCIAL USE";
- the manufacturer's or importer's name and address;
- the month and year of manufacture;

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- the number or code of the mould used to manufacture the chair;
- a statement that the chair is not suitable for bathroom use; and
- any other marking required by national or state laws.

If it is intended that any or all of this information will be printed on a label, an example of the label must be provided so that its permanence may be assessed.

9 Samples

Only one sample of each chair (in each colour) is required. However, because there can be breakages in transit, it is generally desirable to send two.

PLEASE MARK THE MODEL NAME/NUMBER ON EACH CHAIR BEFORE DISPATCH.

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

10 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.

11 Timing

Freight normally takes between 7 and 14 days while the testing process for Domestic Level takes from two to three weeks, while Commercial Level takes one week longer.

When the chair, the Testing Request form and payment are all received, the item will be placed on the testing schedule and an estimated completion date supplied.

12 Confidentiality

Testing conducted at Furntech 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 permission of the person who signed the Testing Request form.

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.

13 The Next Step

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

- 1 send a brochure or other promotional material plus notes explaining what parts of your product range you wish to have certified;
- 2 if you accept the quotation provided, copy the Testing Request form and complete it for each range. Fax a copy to Furntech and attach a copy to the sample;
- 3 mark the name of the company and the model name/number on each sample; and
- 4 arrange for payment of the quoted amount (we take Visa, Bankcard and MasterCard). Please phone 03 63 266 155 to request an invoice if this will help to facilitate payment.

14 Queries

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

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Testing Request - Plastic Monobloc Chairs

Please complete for each chair to be tested and fax one copy to 03-6326 3090 and attach the other to the chair 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)
- Reasons for Test:
- * 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.

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