

# ***Information Kit on Plastic Monobloc Chairs***

## **1 Introduction**

Blue Tick Certification (see section 6) for these type of chairs is based on *AS/NZS 3813:1998 Plastic monobloc chairs*. It is a standard with specific focus on the testing requirements of fully moulded plastic (polymer) chairs.

## **2 Options**

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:

<b>Domestic</b>	Intended to be used in the home whether it be for indoor or outdoor use.
<b>Commercial</b>	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.

Please note: it is not possible to test chairs to find out what level each would be. You will need to nominate your desired testing option. This decision should be based on the chair's construction and its intended use.

## **3 Colour Validation**

It is considered the 'ingredients' used to produce different chair colourations may affect the strength of the chair. Therefore chairs made from the same mould but which vary only in colour require separate evaluation. However, they need not be subjected to all tests in the standard and can therefore be tested at a considerably reduced cost.

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### **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 certified.

## **4 Costs**

Please contact Furntech-AFRDI for a quotation.

Our quotation will include:

- freight (for the number of chairs required for evaluation) from your nearest AFRDI freight forwarding depot to Furntech-AFRDI (see section 9).
- Blue Tick Product Certification for three years.

### **4.1 Adjustments**

In the event of failure prior to the completion of testing a credit towards future charges is normally issued for any unexpended part of the testing fee. If tests have to be repeated further charges are also normally applicable.

### **4.2 Discounts**

Furntech-AFRDI members receive discounts on testing and research fees. Information on membership is available from the Institute or our website. A quantity discount is also available when three or more chairs (of different designs) are forwarded for full testing to the standard at one time (33% discount on the third and all subsequent chairs).

## **5 The Next Step**

If you are interested in considering product testing, please:

- 1 Read the rest of this information kit. Call or e-mail if there is anything further you would like to discuss (03 6326 6155 or [info@furntech.org.au](mailto:info@furntech.org.au)); or
- 2 Contact Furntech-AFRDI for a quotation. Include details of the product for which you are seeking certification.

If you wish to proceed with testing on the basis of our quotation, please follow these steps:

- 3 Copy the Testing Request form (at the end of this document) and complete for each distinct chair i.e. for each chair design for which certification is being sought. Fax or e-mail a copy of each to Furntech-AFRDI.
- 4 Ensure the chairs are appropriately marked (see section 10).
- 5 Ensure you send the appropriate type and number of samples for evaluation (see section 11).

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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.

**T:** (03) 6326 6155 **F:** (03) 6326 3090 **E:** [info@furntech.org.au](mailto:info@furntech.org.au)

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- 6 Deliver the chairs to our Freight Forwarders or make alternative freight arrangements (see section 9).
- 7 Send your payment to Furntech-AFRDI (we accept cheque, EFT, Visa and MasterCard). Please phone 03 6326 6155 or e-mail [info@furntech.org.au](mailto:info@furntech.org.au) to request an invoice if this will help to facilitate payment (see section 8).

### 6 Blue Tick Certification

Blue Tick certification is granted to suppliers whose products and organisations meet the required standard. For this program it is available at both the Domestic and Commercial Level of the standard. The concept is that for Furntech-AFRDI 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. Certification involves periodic 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 samples tested;
- advise of changes in the product including changes in materials, components and means and place of manufacture **prior** to these changes taking place;
- 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-AFRDI's endorsement;
- keep and make available a register of complaints arising from the sale of goods covered by the agreement;
- agree to random checks of the quality of products covered by the agreement;
- maintain an adequate product liability insurance cover; and
- pay a certification fee – three years' fee is included in the testing charge.

In return, Furntech-AFRDI agrees to:

- permit the use of the Furntech-AFRDI logo to promote goods covered by the agreement; and
- commend to specifiers and purchasers the goods covered by the agreement in lists on the Institute's website.

A copy of the agreement and any further information is also available on request.

### **7 What You Get**

Assuming that the product complies and that you sign a Blue Tick product certification agreement, at the end of the process Furntech-AFRDI will:

- issue a Test Report and a product certificate;
- mark with paint one of the samples 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 agreement. Three years' certification fee is included in the testing charge; and
- add the product to the Furntech-AFRDI list of endorsed products under the Blue Tick Product Certification Scheme.

### **8 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 by Visa and MasterCard.

### **9 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.

#### **9.1 Timing**

Freight normally takes between 7 and 14 days. The testing process for the Domestic Level takes approximately three weeks, the Commercial Level 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 testing will commence shortly thereafter.

### **10 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;
- the number or code of the mould used to manufacture the chair;

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- a statement that the chair is not suitable for bathroom use.

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 and affixed to the chair so that its permanence may be assessed.

### **11 Samples**

#### **11.1 Single colour**

Follow the requirements of this section if you are seeking certification for chairs that are made in one colour only.

- Send **five (5)** samples. Each must come from the same mould and be made of the same material (with the same proportion of virgin/regrind feedstock).

#### **11.2 Multiple colours**

Follow the requirements of this section if you are seeking certification for chairs that are made in more than one colour.

- Send **five (5)** samples of the chair with the darkest pigment. If that's not obvious try and determine the chair with the lightest pigment (usually white or cream) and send five of any other colour.
- Send **three (3)** samples of each of the colours that were not selected above.

All samples must come from the same mould and be made of the same material (other than colouration additives) with the same proportion of virgin/regrind feedstock.

#### **11.3 Certification renewal**

Follow the requirements of this section if you are seeking to renew certification for a chair/s for which you hold current Furntech-AFRDI certification, but which is approaching expiry.

- Send **four (4)** samples of each colour for which you wish to renew certification.

#### **11.4 General**

**PLEASE LABEL THE MODEL NAME/NUMBER ON EACH SET OF CHAIRS 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 set of chairs.

### **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 written 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.

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### Testing Request – Plastic Monobloc Chairs

Please complete for **each model** to be tested and **fax (03 6326 3090)** or **email ([info@furntech.org.au](mailto:info@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 NAME:.....

FACTORY ADDRESS: .....

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

### Product Description

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

.....

TEST LEVEL:... DOMESTIC  COMMERCIAL

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 is 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: .....

**OPTIONAL:** Should the product(s) described above be found to comply with the relevant Standard, I authorise Furntech-AFRDI to publicise the fact on its website

YES  NO

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