

Zenith gains dual certification for Rated Load (AFRDI 142) and AS/NZS 4438

Zenith Interiors has become the first company to successfully simultaneously test an office chair to AFRDI's new Rated Load Standard, AFRDI Standard 142, in addition to the 'traditional' standard AS/NZS 4438, which assesses chairs for strength, durability, ergonomics, flammability and stability.

Under AS/NZS 4438, a nominal maximum user body mass of 110 kilos is assumed: AFRDI 142 tests at two higher points, 135 kilos and 160 kilos, and also further defines performance potential by qualifying chairs for either single or multi-shift duty cycles. When a chair is rated, it means that it is suitable for **continuous use** by people weighing up to the limit tested. It does not mean that the chair is likely to break if used **occasionally** by a person who weighs more than the stated limit.

Testing to the two standards at the same time potentially brings considerable savings. When 4438 is specified in addition to RL, testing incurs an additional cost of only around \$1300, and the combined testing protocols could be said to more fully describe the capabilities of a chair.

The Rated Load standard however does test for dynamic, or impact loadings, and it is this factor, coupled with extended fatigue and offset load testing, that sets it apart from the less severe 4438 testing regime.

"Any chair that meets the requirements of both standards can be assumed to be a pretty tough item," says AFRDI CEO Bob Panitzki. "I am hoping that more manufacturers will appreciate the marketing value to be gained from the dual testing regime, which represents very good value."

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Australasian Furnishing Research & Development Institute Limited

ABN 44 009 579 908, trading as Furntech

School Road (University Campus) Newnham Drive PO Box 2042 Launceston Tasmania 7250 Australia

Tel (03) 6326 6155 Fax (03) 6326 3090

Website: www.furntech.org.au Email: info@furntech.org.au