

Rated Load demand

The demand for certification to our Rated Load Standards is high. The Rated Loads Standards focus on proving the structural suitability of chairs for people bigger than 100 - 110 kg.

This is especially important for public space furniture but also in the office where it is now not uncommon for people to be over 110 kg.

AFRDI has produced 2 Rated Load Standards one covering Height Adjustable Chairs (HAC) i.e. gas sprung office swivel chairs and the other Fixed Height Chairs (FHC) i.e. pretty much everything other than HACs.

The Standard for HAC is AFRDI 142 with options for single and multiple shifts and for people up to 135kg and 160kg.

For FHC it is AFRDI 151 with options at 135kg, 160kg, 180kg and a bariatric option at 300kg.



ACCC to target furniture

Chairman Rod Sims recently announced (at the National Consumer Congress in Sydney) the ACCC's product safety priorities for 2018 would include furniture.

Mr Sims also reaffirmed support for a general safety provision to be introduced in Australian law to reduce the risk of unsafe goods entering the market.

"In developing our product safety priorities each year, our work begins with an analysis of data on product injuries and deaths," Mr Sims said.

This year, the ACCC will be targeting nine critical safety issues facing Australian consumers including;

- working with state and territory consumer agencies to improve the safety of baby walkers and toppling furniture. About 50 children are in hospital each week due to furniture falling on them and again, there has been deaths following accidents.

The full media release can be found [here](#) on the ACCC Website.



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Standards, Testing and Product Certification for Commercial, Domestic and Nursery Furniture in Australia and New Zealand

AFRDI NEWS BRIEFS

MOU with UTAS

AFRDI has re-signed its memorandum of understanding with the University of Tasmania.

The MOU is to promote a greater degree of cooperation and understanding between AFRDI and CSAW (the Centre for Sustainable Architecture with Wood).

The original MOU was signed in 2016.

AFRDI develops additional certification for Plastic Monobloc chairs

AS/NZS 3813 is a standard which focuses on the testing requirements of fully moulded plastic (i.e. synthetic polymer) chairs.

AFRDI has added a Blue Tick Certification based on a modified version of AS/NZS 3813:2016 Plastic monobloc chairs for people up to 110 kg in addition to those up to 135kg.

More details are outlined in our updated information kit [here](#).



AFRDI fees to increase by 2%

An increase in fees of two per cent will apply from May 2018.

We aim to keep increases to a minimum, however our costs have increased and some recovery of these is necessary.

Our last increase was in 2016.



Vale Karl Kehrer

We were saddened to hear that Karl recently passed away.

Karl was owner and MD of Eccosit in NSW.

Not only was Karl a significant figure in the Australian Furniture Industry but Eccosit are a valued and very long term member and supporter of AFRDI.

STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT

The Institute has been particularly busy over the past 24 months leading the review of a number of Australian Standards.

➤ ***New Desk and Workstation Standard (AS/NZS 4442/4443)***

The final draft is with Standards Australia and the committee balloting process will proceed shortly, followed by publication.

A new Standard is expected mid 2018.

➤ ***Review and update of School and Educational Furniture Standard (AS/NZS 4610 parts 1, 2 and 3)***

Committee drafts of both AS/NZS 4610.1 (tables and desks) and 4610.2 (chairs) have been prepared.

The next step will be to call a meeting of the relevant CS-088 sub-committee to discuss various issues raised in the draft documents (parts 1 and 2).

Part 3 School and Education Furniture (storage furniture) is at drafting stage.

➤ ***Review of part 1 of Fixed Height Chair Standard - Ergonomics and General Requirements (AS/NZS 4688.1)***

The Committee Draft will soon be forwarded by Standards Australia to the committee for feedback prior to being sent out for public comment.

➤ ***Review of Domestic furniture—Freestanding chests of drawers, wardrobes and bookshelves/bookcases—Determination of stability (AS/NZS 4935)***

The project application has been approved.

No commencement date has yet been established.

This review is important considering the ACCC focus for 2018 (see earlier article).

SERVICE AWARDS

During the AFRDI Board visit to the Institute in February, service awards were presented to a number of Staff.

15 years of service - Lee Bowkett and Ian Burton

10 years of service - Bob Panitzki, Eric Paul, Peter Wilson and Paul Semmens

Pictured are (L to R): Peter Wilson, Ian Burton, Chairman Tony Rogers, Lee Bowkett, Bob Panitzki and Paul Semmens (Eric Paul absent on leave).

