

New Standard Published

**A new part 1 of the Australian Standard for Fixed Height Chairs has recently been published.
AS 4688.1:2018 Furniture - Fixed height chairs, Part 1: Safety and general requirements**

The other parts of the Australian Standard for fixed height chairs are AS/NZS 4688:2000 (R2016) parts 2, 3 and 4 and these parts of the standard remain unchanged.

In 2000 part 1 was also produced. This was replaced in 2007 but withdrawn in 2008 and since then there has not been a part 1.

You will notice that part 1 is only an Australian Standard as Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand decided to develop this as an Australian Standard rather than an Australian/New Zealand Standard.

The new edition of part 1 covers safety and general requirements.

AFRDI was the draft lead and special thanks go to staff members Peter Wilson and Ian Burton.

One noteworthy difference between the old and the new is the way chairs will now be classified according to AS 4688.1:2018.

Test levels were previously described as:

- Level 4 General commercial
- Level 5 Heavy commercial
- Level 6 Severe commercial

The descriptors on new look AFRDI Blue Tick certificates will now be:

- Level 4 Heavy domestic/light commercial
- Level 5 General commercial
- Level 6 Heavy commercial

This change has been included to reflect suitability for a current population of users (generally larger and heavier than in the past).

If you have any questions please peruse our updated information kit on fixed height chair testing [here](#) on our Website or call us on (03) 6326 6155.

NEW AFRDI BOARD MEMBER

Isabella Hawkes, Industrial Designer at Wilkhahn Asia Pacific has joined the AFRDI Board. Isabella has a Bachelor of Industrial Design.

Isabella said 'she was very pleased to join the Board and planned to contribute to the overarching goals of AFRDI to maintain its leading edge in quality and sustainability testing in the Australasian region'.

Chairman Tony Rogers welcomed Isabella to the Board and said 'it is good to have another of our major AFRDI Blue Tick and AFRDI Green Tick clients join the Board. Isabella's specific interest in Sustainability will also be a good addition to the Board'.



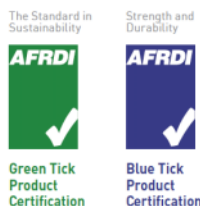
BOARD MEETING REPORT

The AFRDI Board met at the Institute in February. The meeting was preceded by a Focus group meeting covering such subjects as:

- intellectual property
- Board membership
- marketing

The Board were also able to meet with Staff and tour the test labs.

**SPECIFYING COMMERCIAL FURNITURE?
MAKE SURE IT'S AFRDI CERTIFIED
IT'S ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW.**



EXPIRED CERTIFICATES

Expired certificates are being shown on Websites.

It is important to note that current certification cannot be claimed with an expired certificate.

It is assumed that many expired certificates are on Websites due mainly to slow Website maintenance. However, one cannot help but think in some cases it is a ploy to claim certification when it no longer exists.

Searching our Website www.furntech.org.au will show all our currently valid certificates.

AFRDI FEES TO INCREASE BY 3%

An increase in fees of three per cent will apply from May 2019.

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

SAMPLES

In our quotes we take particular care to itemise the sample requirements for testing.

These are determined based on covering the clients request and/or after examination of ranges from which we may make a variety of selections.

Please take note of the sample requirements but let us know if the requested samples are unavailable so that we may discuss alternatives with you.

NEW CERTIFICATE FORMAT

A new style certificate is being rolled out progressively.

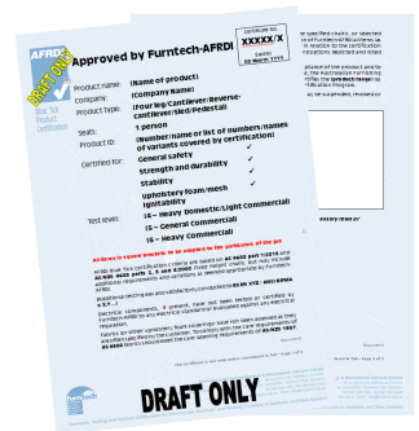
The first applications will be for Desks and Fixed Height Chairs.

The new certificates incorporate major changes including:

- A second page with more detail on the item(s) covered by the certification
- A new signature block
- A background watermark

These changes have been introduced to assist clients and specifiers better understand the coverage of the certificate.

The other changes are to enhance the uniqueness of our IP.



RECENT AUDITS

Some recent product audits have uncovered samples which are not representative of the original item.

It shows that some form of QA is missing or lacking.

We strongly recommend that companies have at least basic QA processes where a random check of batches is undertaken and also have their suppliers commit to advising of product changes including change of raw material/component source.

RATED LOAD FOR FIXED HEIGHT SEATING



Following a recent enquiry from the market it is timely to again remind readers of fixed height chair ratings and our recommendations as per the table below:

Recommended Chair Loadings - Fixed height chairs

Standard	Uses	Duty
AS/NZS 4688 levels 4 - 6	Not for more than occasional use by people over 100 kg	L4 – heavy domestic/light commercial L5 – general commercial L6 – heavy commercial
AFRDI 151 option 135	Rated * for a normal population of people up to 135 kg	L6 +
AFRDI 151 option 160	Rated* for a normal population of people up to 160 kg	L6 +
AFRDI 151 option 185	Rated * for a normal population of people up to 185 kg	L6 +
AFRDI 151 option 300	Rated* for Bariatric use (for people up to 300 kg)	N/A

** = the standard is specifically designed for users up to that mass limit*

It is commonly thought that as some, say 10 applications of static load testing is conducted at 200kg then the chair is rated at 200kg. This is a false impression.

The real testing for rating must be dynamic testing over many thousands of cycles. For example AFRDI 151 for 135kg rating includes static load testing PLUS dynamic testing for 200,000 cycles at loads significantly higher than 200kg.

STANDARDS WORK

Drafting work continues on a revision to the School and Education furniture standard for chairs and tables AS/NZS 4610.

These were initially published in 1999.

The current plan will see the drafts go to public comment Q2 2019.