

the AFRDI bulletin

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Visit of Sen Lambie

Senator Jacqui Lambie (Senator for Tasmania) visited AFRDI in February.

The Senator said 'she was very impressed with AFRDI's aims to certify furniture which is safe and fit for purpose, and how wonderful it is that a little not-for-profit company in Tassie is doing this for Australia'.

General Manager Ian Burton said 'he was very pleased that Senator Lambie took the time from her busy schedule to visit and tour the testing labs'.

The Institute wishes to thank the Senator and her office for assisting with its migration to the NBN network.



Expansion of AFRDI testing facilities

AFRDI took the opportunity during the end of year break to install additional testing equipment.

General Manager Ian Burton said 'this new equipment will provide additional capacity and improve productivity, as well as cater for expanded tests in a number of revised Australian Standards'.



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SUMMARY OF 2019 FURNITURE RECALLS

During 2019 furniture recalls in Australia covered the following items:

- Dining suite
- Bunk beds
- Dining table
- Bookcases and glass-door cabinets
- Dining chairs
- Children's Board table and chairs
- Toddler bed
- Portable cot
- Change table/chest of drawers
- Standing desk
- Beanbag
- Poufs
- Cot

The ACCC estimates the annual cost of injury and death caused by all unsafe consumer products is at least \$5 billion (ACCC press release 14 March 2019).

Details of all product recalls can be found at www.productsafety.gov.au

AFRDI can assist you assessing not only the type of products listed above but also a wide range of furniture items.

You are welcome to discuss your requirements by calling us on 61 3 6326 6155 or email us at admin@furntech.org.au

FEBRUARY BOARD FOCUS GROUP & BOARD MEETING

The AFRDI Board met in Launceston in February.

As has been recent practice the Chairman and GM lead Focus Group sessions the day prior to the Board meeting.

These covered a number of areas including standards development, marketing, Website development and possible effects on the business from the Coronavirus.



ACCC NEWS

The ACCC recently announced their priorities for 2020.

See the full article [here](#).

COT TESTING PRICE REDUCED

We have recently updated our cot testing price schedule.

The update covers both new testing and certification renewals for household cots based on the Consumer Protection Notice (the cot CPN or Mandatory Standard), and the Australian standard AS/NZS 2172:2013 *Cots for household use*. The approximate percentage changes are listed below:

- The price to test a new cot to the cot CPN has been reduced by approximately 40%
- The price to conduct CPN (Orange Tick) certification renewal testing of a cot has been increased by approximately 7%
- The price to test a new cot to AS/NZS 2172:2013 has been reduced by approximately 25%
- The price to conduct full standard (Blue Tick) certification renewal testing of a cot has been increased by approximately 22%

We have also updated the price to test sleep surfaces to AS/NZS 8811.1:2013 - *Sleep surfaces - Test for firmness*, which has been reduced by approximately 25% for each mattress type.

Given the price to test new cots is generally much higher than the price to renew certification, in absolute dollar terms the net effect of these price changes means overall charges have been considerably reduced. This should be of significant benefit to our existing and new clients.

Please contact us directly on 61 3 6326 6155 or admin@furntech.org.au if you would like to discuss further.

PLANNED REVIEW OF AS/NZS 4935 IN 2020

Standards Australia (SA) Furniture Technical Committee CS-088 will soon commence a review of AS/NZS 4935:2009/Amdt 1:2013 *Domestic furniture - Freestanding chests of drawers, wardrobes and bookshelves/bookcases - Determination of stability*.

The content of this Standard is very topical with the number of accidents related to toppling furniture. Numerous high profile cases can be found in the literature.

Further details will be forthcoming after the first meeting of the Working Group.

NEW DISTRIBUTION ARRANGEMENTS FOR STANDARDS

Standards Australia (SA) have announced new distribution arrangements for their standards.

The SA press release can be viewed [here](#).