

New Institute Manager

After more than 15 years as Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Bob Panitzki is moving to the part-time role as Business Development Manager (BDM).

Bob said he “very much enjoyed the time as CEO, and is thankful for the many friendships and valued associations made during that time”, and “is now looking forward to continuing to assist AFRDI as the BDM”.

AFRDI Chairman Tony Rogers said “the Board and the many clients of AFRDI wish to thank Bob for his tireless contribution as CEO since 2003”.

The Chairman said “the AFRDI Board is pleased to announce the appointment of Ian Burton as Institute General Manager and looked forward to his contribution”.

Ian is well qualified for the position with an honours degree in Mechanical Engineering, a Political Science degree and the last 16 years as Technical Manager at AFRDI.

Ian is also on numerous Standards Australia (SA) committees and has represented SA at a number of ISO meetings.

The new appointments will be effective from 1 July 2019.



Pictured are (L to R): Outgoing CEO Bob Panitzki, Chairman Tony Rogers and newly appointed General Manager Ian Burton.

AFRDI LAUNCHES BUNK BED RATED LOAD STANDARD

AFRDI 152 was prepared by Furntech AFRDI to address the fact that there is no known standard for bunk beds (and elevated beds) defined as a rated load for such beds.

The objective of this standard is to provide manufacturers with safety, strength, durability, stability, and marking and information requirements for bunk beds used by both children and adults in both domestic and non-domestic environments. Additionally it aims to allow these beds to be rated as suitable for people with a **body mass up to 135 kg per sleeping position**.

The **target** market for such bunk beds or elevated beds includes:

- **Short term rental accommodation**
- **Military barracks**
- **Boarding schools**
- **Camp grounds**
- **Ski clubs**
- **Outdoor education facilities**
- **Domestic dwellings where bunk beds are used by large children or adults**
- **Any application where high durability and strength is required.**

This Standard meets or exceeds the product specific requirements of:

- AS/NZS 4220:2010 - *Bunk beds and other elevated beds*
- Consumer Protection Notice No. 1 of 2003 (sometimes known as the mandatory standard) – *Consumer Product Safety Standard: Bunk Beds (the CPN refers to AS/NZS 4220:1994 and the CPN also does not include any strength or durability requirements)*
- The QLD Government - *Fair Trading (Safety Standards) Regulation 2011* (Subordinate Legislation 2011 No. 264) - bunk beds safety for short-term rental accommodation in Queensland
- Standards Australia Handbook - HB 393-2011 - *Bunk Beds for the short-term rental accommodation industry*. [For mechanical strength and durability only. For most bunk designs it will also exceed the requirements for stability.]

AFRDI Standard 152 is based on AS/NZS 4220:2010 with the following major variations:

- (a) an increase in the severity of the testing of guardrails, stability, fatigue, impact and treads
- (b) the addition of distributed static and concentrated static load tests applied to the sleeping surfaces and grip strength test on hand holds

Bunk Beds meeting AFRDI 152 will definitely meet AS/NZS 4220:2010 and the CPN requirements. These certifications can be shown on the certificate if requested.

Contact AFRDI at admin@furntech.org.au to discuss your requirements or to obtain a quote.



STANDARDS UPDATE

The School and Education Furniture Standards (AS/NZS 4610 suite of 3 standards) is at pre-Public Comment phase in the committee.

The drafts will be issued by Standards Australia for Public Comment late May / June.

ACCC PRODUCT SAFETY PRIORITIES FOR 2019

The following is an extract from the ACCC media release for their Product Safety Priorities in 2019:

- Progressing the development of a **General Safety Provision**
- Supporting strategies that help prevent injuries and deaths to infants caused by **unsafe sleeping products**
- Improving product safety in the **online marketplace**
- Continuing to review and update current **mandatory safety standards**

You can read the full release [here](#).

CHANGES TO AFRDI'S COT CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

We will be making the following changes to our Household Cot program:

AFRDI Blue Tick for cots will apply only to cots meeting the full Australian Standard for Household Cots AS/NZS 2172:2013

The mandatory cot safety standard Consumer Protection Notice (CPN) No. 6 of 2005 refers to AS/NZS 2172:2003 and successful cots will now be awarded **Furntech Orange Tick** (previously awarded AFRDI Blue Tick).

This will bring household cots meeting the CPN in line with bunk beds meeting the CPN i.e. Furntech Orange Tick Certification.

Importantly, there will be no difference in the conduct of the testing, only the logo displayed on the Cot CPN certificate will now be orange.

Cots which meet both the full standard and the CPN will achieve Blue Tick Certification.

Another change to our cot certification program is;
- annual random audits will be increased

The above changes will apply to all Household Cots submitted from May 2019.



WEIGHT RATING ON OFFICE CHAIRS

We continue to receive concerns raised by clients that some manufacturers and sellers are advertising AFRDI Blue Tick Level 6 Office Chairs as suitable for persons up to of all things 160kg.

This is not the case. AS/NZS 4438 Level 6 office chairs are suitable for persons up to 110kg.



If you are purchasing chairs with a Level 6 certificate you need to be aware of this. You would be taking a significant risk if you expect these chairs to be suitable for larger people and offer a good service life. Alternately, if you are advertising in this way you are most likely breaching the requirements of Australian Consumer Law (ACL).

For larger people, AFRDI's Rated Load Certifications cater for persons up to either 135kg or 160kg.

Contact us at admin@furntech.org.au if you wish to discuss these options.