

Wilkhahn first to gain Platinum AFRDI Green Tick certification

Two products from Wilkhahn Wilkening & Hahne Pty Ltd (trading as **Wilkhahn**) have been awarded the top Platinum level certification under AFRDI Standard 150 (Sustainability for Commercial Furniture). This is a significant development for the Australasian furniture industry, as Platinum is the best practice level, and the Wilkhahn products are the first to achieve this level with AFRDI Green Tick.

The Wilkhahn products are:

- the **ON chair**, which differentiates itself in the marketplace through an ability to allow occupiers to swivel from side to side as well as fore and aft, and
- the **Confair meeting table**, which seats eight and can be folded and rolled away when not in use.

The online “List of products certified to AFRDI Sustainability Standard 150 - Commercial Furniture” is accessible [here](#).

AFRDI’s CEO, Bob Panitzki, said “AFRDI congratulated Wilkhahn and their team for being the first to achieve the AFRDI 150 Platinum level.”

Daniel Grilli, Wilkhahn Asia Pacific’s Environmental Portfolio Manager, said: “We are very pleased to achieve the Platinum level, and being the first to do so.

Wilkhahn has a rich vein of being the first to innovate and the first to achieve the highest possible standards nationally and internationally. To be able to continue this rich culture to yet another milestone in 2011 is an honour and a privilege to have led this pursuit for excellence to become the First Company to achieve Platinum Certification.”

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Mr Grilli added that the thoroughness of AFRDI's Platinum requirements, while being a challenge, had already been and would definitely continue to be of great benefit to Wilkhahn.

AFRDI expects to see other products certified soon under AFRDI Standard 150, along with office chairs from a number of manufacturers now being tested to AFRDI's new Rated Load certification program, which caters for more severe use or high loads, with testing at 135 kilos and at 160 kilos. This is considerably more than the nominal 110 kilo loading assumed for so-called normal office chairs suiting more than 90 per cent of the population.

"We are entering into a new era," Bob Panitzki said. "There is a growing expectation that office furniture will be of the very highest standard to meet environmental and sustainability expectations on the one hand, but will also – through extended testing for strength and durability – offer some protection against potential litigation should personal injury occur through product failure.

I am pleased to see that manufacturers are meeting these challenges in a positive manner, which can only serve to benefit the people who are the end-users of these products."

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