

## Misleading Claims of AFRDI Certification and Testing

**There are unfortunately companies who attempt to take advantage of the valued AFRDI brand, by making dubious claims regarding AFRDI testing and certification.**

When these issues are raised by the industry, we investigate and if necessary, employ legal means to ensure the brand is protected for the good of our clients.

Where a client invests time and effort to obtain AFRDI Blue Tick or Furntech Orange Tick certification for a particular design and named product, we have identified situations where a different company will try to claim AFRDI testing and certification by selling the same (allegedly) item of furniture under a different name. This contravenes the use of the AFRDI brand as there is no proof that the furniture is indeed the same and no AFRDI testing has been carried out on behalf of the company making the claim. In other words, the company is either laying claim to certification which is not theirs or fabricating the claim in its entirety.

Multi company branding is available, but there is a specified process in place to ensure the individual authorised parties are properly identified and appropriate certifications issued, for a fee. This also ensures all are aware of proper use of our registered trademarks.

Should you wish to find out more about the appropriate use of our marks, our "Use of Furntech-AFRDI Trademark" guide is publicly available [here](#) on our website's home page.

To identify items that are currently AFRDI certified, please view our website [www.furntech.org.au](http://www.furntech.org.au) where the certificate, number, expiry date and product name are displayed. Our website listings are maintained on a daily basis so the most recent certifications will be uploaded promptly.

As always, we are here to answer any questions you might have regarding your valued certifications.

Some of our registered marks below.



**Australasian Furnishing Research & Development Institute Limited**

ABN 44 009 579 908, trading as Furntech

School Road (University Campus) Newnham Drive PO Box 2042 Launceston Tasmania 7250 Australia

Tel (03) 6326 6155 Fax (03) 6326 3090

Website: [www.furntech.org.au](http://www.furntech.org.au) Email: [info@furntech.org.au](mailto:info@furntech.org.au)

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

# PRODUCT SAFETY

**We continue to see recall notices for various furniture items.**

This year there have been numerous recalls for bean bags, cots and bunk beds. Each of these has a mandatory safety requirement.

AFRDI is able to check these products either against the mandatory requirements (known as Consumer Protection Notices) or alternately the Australian Standard in the case of cots and bunk beds.

Please contact [admin@furntech.org.au](mailto:admin@furntech.org.au) to discuss your requirements and avoid the cost and embarrassment of a recall.



*View of a gap failure in a bunk bed side rail.*

-----

The ACCC is pushing for the introduction of a General Safety Provision and bring Australia in line with safety regimes like Canada, Brazil, the UK and European Union.

The ACCC along with the European Commission and 24 other countries is focused on reducing the number of unsafe consumer products being sold online. See the recent ACCC press release [here](#).

# NEW STANDARD PUBLISHED

**A revised standard for desks and workstations AS/NZS 4442:2018 *Office desks, office workstations and tables intended to be used as office desks – Mechanical, dimensional and general requirements and test methods* was recently published.**

AFRDI was the draft lead and special thanks go to Dr Lee Bowkett (AFRDI Team Leader) and Mr Ian Burton (AFRDI Technical Manager) who spent many hours drafting the new standard for review by the Standards Australia Furniture Committee.

For those interested in submitting product for AFRDI testing and certification against the new standard please direct enquiries to [admin@furntech.org.au](mailto:admin@furntech.org.au) or call (03) 6326 6155.



*AFRDI's Lee Bowkett (left) & Ian Burton (right).*

Well done to  who are first to achieve AFRDI Blue Tick certification.

# FAKE DOCUMENTS

**In the area of testing and certification, fake documents unfortunately do appear.**

Below are a few hints to check if the test document is genuine. Check for:

- obvious mistakes
- name changes
- spelling mistakes and inconsistencies
- formatting or text that is not consistent with the remainder and
- ask the issuing body if the document is accurate

For those who wish to read more, please visit the ACCC's "Product Safety: A guide to testing" [here](#), specifically pp 14-16.

## AGM OUTCOME

**At AFRDI's recent Annual General Meeting, retiring Directors Peter McCutcheon, Ken Payne and Dane Walsh were re-elected.**

The Executive Tony Rogers (Chairman), Dane Walsh (Deputy Chairman) and Ben Wortley were also re-elected.

In his remarks the Chairman said 'the Institute continues to meet and adapt to the ever changing needs of our members and customers. The Institute has contributed heavily to the review of aged Australian Standards and invested in new equipment'.

Guest speaker at the AGM was Glenn Toole, Senior investigator with NSW Fair Trading who spoke about the electrical safety standard and the requirements for various power operated furniture items.



*The AFRDI Executive of (L to R) Ben Wortley, Tony Rogers & Dane Walsh.*

*With the new year fast approaching, the staff at AFRDI thank you for your custom and wish you all the best for 2019!*

