

the AFRDI bulletin

December 2021

Journal of the Australasian Furnishing Research and Development Institute Limited trading as Furntech www.furntech.org.au

Beware of Fake AFRDI Certificates

We wish to bring to your attention a matter which has recently come to our notice, being the use of a fake AFRDI certificate.

The fake certificate concerned is displayed for your interest.

Alterations from the genuine original certificate are:

- Company named changed
- Expiry date changed from 2014 to 2022
- Product name spelling changed
- Product colour options changed
- Slight change to wording with the word “blue” removed
- Product photograph changed (different chair and the photograph was not taken by or at AFRDI)

This behaviour can damage our Certification Scheme, our clients whose business depends on genuine AFRDI Certificates, as well as defrauding any companies which chose to buy products based on a fake certificate.

When contacted the company whose name is on the certificate replied ‘We know nothing about this, we must have been hacked’.

This matter is currently in the hands of our lawyers.

If you become aware of certificates that appear modified or do not look genuine please email our Institute’s Business Development Manager (BDM), [Bob Panitzki](mailto:Bob.Panitzki@furntech.org.au).



AFRDI AGM REPORT

Tony Rogers (Woods Furniture) was re-elected Chair. Dane Walsh (Watts Commercial Furniture) Deputy Chair and Ben Wortley (Wortley Group) were re-elected as members of the Executive at the recent AGM. Other re-elected Directors were Patrizia Torelli (Australasian Furnishing Association), Isabella Hawkes (Individual), Steve Dimotakis (Reed Furniture) and Jonathan Muller (individual)

The Chairman welcomed Paul Besanko from K2 Office and Matt Newell from Resero who were newly elected to the Board.

In his remarks the Chair Tony Rogers thanked retiring Directors Ken Payne and Marcus Nelson who had both given many years of service to AFRDI. Tony mentioned the effects of COVID on everyone, especially those who were severely affected. Notwithstanding, the Institute continued work on a number of fronts which will be covered by the GM. The Chair also mentioned that the Institute's financial position is sound with a strong cash flow for the year.

The General Manger Ian Burton reported that the Institute continued with its work on standards, installation of new equipment, publishing the AFRDI Certification Guide and the upgrade of the Website. Ian mentioned the growth in members and thanked all members and clients for their support in challenging times. The GM outlined the movement in testing volumes in the various product areas and the growth in AFRDI Green Tick. The Sustainability Standard AFRDI 150 review is ongoing however full details of the new GBCA requirements for Certification Schemes are not yet finalised.

The GM thanked the Board and especially the Executive for their support and guidance during the year.

VISIT BY FEDERAL MEMBER

Bridget Archer Federal MP for Bass took the opportunity to visit AFRDI.

Bridget observed at first hand the broad scale of work we undertake and the wide range of skills of the staff.

In her meeting with General Manager Ian Burton, Bridget mentioned she was 'particularly impressed how AFRDI's work in Launceston over the last 30 years has benefited Australian consumers and the community at large'.



*AFRDI Testing Officer
John Brock (left), Federal
MP Bridget Archer and
AFRDI General Manager
Ian Burton*

TOPPLING FURNITURE

AFRDI responded to an Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) Issues Paper on Toppling Furniture.

The Australian Standard AS/NZS 4935:2009 Amdt 1-2013 *Domestic furniture – Freestanding chests of drawers, wardrobes and bookshelves/bookcases – Determination of stability is a relevant standard.*

Of interest is that since 2009 very few items have been submitted to AFRDI for testing. We did undertake a market survey of 16 random items and all failed the standard. The main failure types were stability, labelling and 1 item fractured under test.

Standards Australia has approved a review of AS/NZS 4935. As soon as travel restrictions ease it is hoped to convene a face-to-face initial scoping meeting. The review is planned to assess overseas testing developments, particularly USA and Europe and improved labelling requirements.

ACCC PRODUCT SAFETY PLEDGE

A recent ACCC media release regarding product safety is now online [here](#).

Supporting business through improvements to mandatory standards regulation under the Australian Consumer Law

Treasury has commenced the above titled consultation on behalf of Commonwealth, state and territory governments.

Details of the consultation, including a copy of the consultation regulation impact statement (CRIS), can be found [here](#) on the Treasury consultation page.

Consultation on the CRIS will run from Wednesday 01 December 2021 until Friday 21 January 2022.

Treasury are seeking views from a wide range of stakeholders that have an interest in how consumer goods are regulated by mandatory standards in Australia.

This consultation considers how to improve the regulatory framework for mandatory safety and information standards under the Australian Consumer Law with a focus on minimising compliance costs for business whilst maintaining consumer protections.

VISIT BY UTAS VICE CHANCELLOR

Professor Rufus Black Vice Chancellor (VC) of the University of Tasmania (UTAS) visited AFRDI.

AFRDI is based on the UTAS Campus in Launceston with UTAS being our landlord.

The VC often travels north to Launceston and it was opportune to have Rufus visit AFRDI.

Apart from a tour of the Institute the VC enlightened us on the development of UTAS's Newnham Campus.



AFRDI General Manager Ian Burton (far left), and UTAS VC Professor Rufus Black

CHRISTMAS HOURS

Our Institute will be closed from mid-day Thursday 23 December and re-opening Monday 10 January 2022.

AND FINALLY...

Thank you for your support this year and wishing you well for 2022.

Season's greetings to all members, affiliates and clients from the staff at AFRDI.