

The importance of a specification

A specification has the benefit of ensuring components and assemblies meet the requirements each and every time. We find in our testing those clients who hold dearly to specification and have a well developed QA/QM System meet the requirements of the test standard every time. This gives their team the surety of offering compliant product and also confidence to the end users.

The purpose of a **specification** is to provide a description and statement of the requirements of a product, components of a product, the capability or performance of a product, and/or the service or work to be performed to create a product.

It can reference the quality and standards which should be applied. Materials and manufacturers' products can be clearly defined. Installation, testing and handover requirements can also be identified.

Specification will give uniformity and consistency to purchasing and receiving, that will aid to maintain a standard consistent product.

The term "product" is a very broad term that could include commodities, supplies, goods, equipment, materials, construction and services.

Types of specifications:

(a) *Design*. This specification describes and states the required functional, physical and quality characteristics of a product, components of products, or services.

(b) *Performance*. This specification describes and states the intended use, operating conditions, specific features and characteristics, and performance capability of the product.

For construction or services, a performance specification states the methods to be employed and/or standards to be met, specific starting and completion schedule, and frequency of the service to be performed to develop the final product.

(c) *Design/performance*. This specification is a combination of types (a) and (b) described above. It is a complete description and statement of the required physical makeup, functionality, intended use, operating conditions, specific features and characteristics, and performance capability of the product.

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THE IMPORTANCE OF A SPECIFICATION continued

(d) *Service availability.* If availability of service is to be a criteria for awarding a contract, the specifications shall clearly state that service availability may be considered in determining the most responsible bid, and the bidders shall be required to submit information concerning their ability to service and maintain the product or equipment.

A specification may also include provisions for testing and inspecting where necessary. All specifications shall be drafted so as to promote overall economy for the purpose intended and encourage competition and should not be unduly restrictive.

STANDARD UPDATE – AFRDI 150

Late last year we advised that we were reviewing and updating our Sustainability Standard AFRDI 150.

One of the reasons was that the Green Building Council (GBCA) were reviewing criteria for acceptance of various certification schemes.

GBCA have been communicating with the schemes and are developing a Responsible Products Framework (RPF).

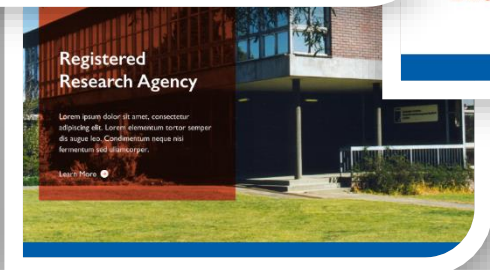
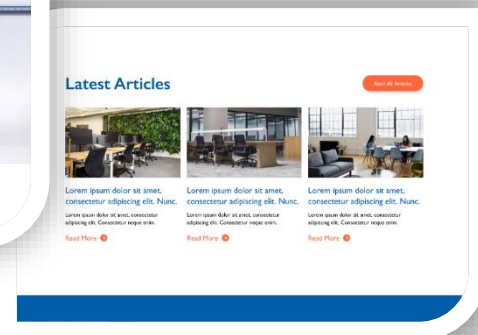
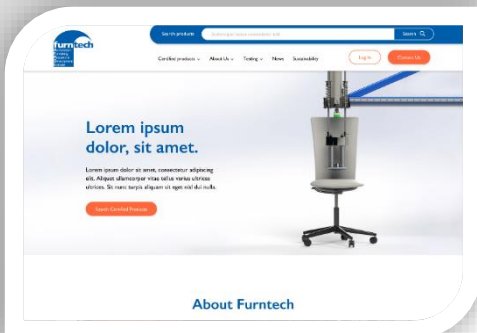
The RPF is almost final which has slowed our efforts to review AFRDI 150.



COMING SOON...

Watch for the launch of our new AFRDI Website.

Going live before the end of the year and to feature an improved **search engine** for quickly retrieving product certification information based on various criteria.



BOARD STRATEGY MEETING

As in prior years the AFRDI Board held a strategy meeting the day prior to the regular Board meeting at AFRDI.

The strategy discussions covered progress on the new Website, standards development, and sustainability from a suppliers point of view.



Members of the AFRDI Board and Management.

SWAN FURNITURE FIRST TO ACHIEVE AFRDI 152 – BUNK BEDS FOR PEOPLE UP TO 135KG

George Yang, Managing Director of Swan Furniture, said “he was very pleased with the result and found the certification process to be relatively simple and straight forward”.

AFRDI developed AFRDI Standard 152 as we saw the need for bunks tested to suit heavier people, like adults. It is based on AS/NZS 4220:2010 with the following (2) major variations:

- An increase in the severity of the testing of guardrails, stability, fatigue, impact and treads
- The addition of distributed static and concentrated static load tests applied to the sleeping surfaces (upper and lower) and grip strength on hand rails

The target for such bunk beds includes:

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

The Australian Standard AS/NZS 4220:2010 was developed more with children in mind.

AFRDI 152 satisfies and is equal to or exceeds all the requirements of both AS/NZS 4220:2010 and the Bunk Bed Mandatory Standard, Australian Consumer Protection Notice Number 1 of 2003.

If you have an interest in testing your bunk bed to AFRDI 152 please email our Business Development Manager (BDM), [Bob Panitzki](#), or [Admin team](#).

KEN PAYNE RETIRES

After 18 years on the AFRDI Board Ken Payne is retiring. Ken has been Sebel's R&D manager for 33 years.

AFRDI Chair Tony Rogers said 'Ken has been a wonderful asset to the AFRDI Board with his product, testing and standards knowledge and will leave a big hole'.

At the recent AFRDI Board meeting Ken's contribution was acknowledged.



Furntech-AFRDI General Manager Ian Burton (left), retiring Board member Ken Payne and Chair Tony Rogers

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE

It is nearing Tax time again. Can you claim expenditure on R&D ?

This "Research and Development Tax Incentive" article [here](#) on the ATO's Website may be useful.

In addition it is also recommended that you discuss your situation with a tax professional.

NEW MEMBER SPECIAL

For the next few months (till 30 November 2021) we are offering the following promotion:

Each new AFRDI Platinum member will receive a further 10% off their first testing invoice

This promotion is in addition to any other member or volume discounts and the job needs to be submitted and paid by the 30 November.

Feel free to email our BDM, [Bob Panitzki](#), or [Admin team](#) if you wish to discuss.



OUT NOW

Visit the AFRDI Certification Guide [here](#).

