Australian/New Zealand Standard™

Bunk beds and other elevated beds





#### AS/NZS 4220:2010

This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard was prepared by Joint Technical Committee CS-003, Safety Requirements for Children's Furniture. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 11 March 2010 and on behalf of the Council of Standards New Zealand on 19 March 2010.

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The following are represented on Committee CS-003:

Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
Australian Industry Group
Australian Retailers Association
Consumer Affairs Victoria
Consumers Federation of Australia
CHOICE

Department of Commerce Consumer Protection

Department of Health (South Australia)

Department of Tourism, Fair trading and Wine Industry Development, Qld

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This Standard was issued in draft form for comment as DR AS/NZS 4220.

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### **PREFACE**

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee CS-003, Safety Requirements for Children's Furniture to supersede AS/NZS 4220:2003. The original edition was motivated by concern expressed by the then South Australian Department of Human Services and Departments of Fair Trading about the number and severity of injuries suffered by children falling from or otherwise injured by bunk beds. Similar concerns had been expressed overseas.

The objective of this Standard is to provide regulatory authorities with safety requirements and to provide manufacturers with functional, durability, stability and performance criteria to meet these safety requirements, in order to reduce the likelihood of deaths or injuries to children.

The following were the major objectives for this revision:

- (a) To increase the minimum vertical distance between the upper surface of the guardrail and the upper surface of the mattress base to a minimum of 360 mm from the 260 mm specified in the 2003 edition.
- (b) To discourage the creation of large gaps in guardrails in order to prevent the inadvertent formation of dangerous smaller gaps that may arise when a mattress is fitted. Of particular concern were gaps formed where the top, outside edge of the mattress forms the bottom edge of an entrapping space.
- (c) To place a maximum limit on the number of permissible access openings in guardrails.
- (d) To expand and improve the section on climbing access.
- (e) To reduce from 800 mm to 700 mm the maximum height above the floor of the upper surface of the mattress base, i.e. the minimum height at which the provisions of this Standard apply.
- (f) To increase the severity of load testing of guardrails.
- (g) To improve both the accuracy and clarity of the figures used in the Standard.

The term 'normative' has been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which it applies. A 'normative' appendix is an integral part of a Standard.

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