

AS/NZS 4438:1997

Australian/New Zealand Standard[®]

Height adjustable swivel chairs



*Australian Furniture Research
and Development
Institute Limited*

AS/NZS 4438:1997

This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard was prepared by Joint Technical Committee CS/88, Commercial Furniture. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 15 October 1996 and on behalf of the Council of Standards New Zealand on 28 October 1996. It was published on 5 January 1997.

The following interests are represented on Committee CS/88:

Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Australian Chamber of Manufactures
Australasian Furnishing Research and Development Institute
Australia Post
Commercial Services Group N.S.W.
Department of Public Works and Services
Ergonomics Society of Australia
Furnishing Industry Association of Australia
National Occupational Health and Safety Commission
National Supply Group
New Zealand Ergonomics Society
New Zealand Furniture Manufacturers Federation
Purchasing Australia Department of Administrative Services
Telstra Corporation

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Suggestions for improvements to Joint Standards, addressed to the head office of either Standards Australia or Standards New Zealand, are welcomed. Notification of any inaccuracy or ambiguity found in a Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard should be made without delay in order that the matter may be investigated and appropriate action taken.

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PREFACE

This Standard was developed under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Standards Australia and the Australasian Furnishing Research and Development Institute Limited (AFRDI) and is published as a Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard.

Under the Memorandum, AFRDI acts as an agency for the development of the text of the Standard which is then reviewed by an appropriate Joint Standards Australia/New Zealand Committee.

The Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee CS/88 on Commercial Furniture reviewed this text and endorsed its adoption as a Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard.

In preparing this Standard, the AFRDI Commercial Furniture working group took into account both prevailing practice in Australia and the Standards used in the mature market overseas. In particular, attention was given to developments in furniture quality and testing occurring in Europe and the USA although the European position is still in flux at the time of publication of this Standard.

Due to the absence of an ISO Standard and the fact that the development of the CEN Standard has been delayed due to non-agreement between its members, Australia and New Zealand have aligned where practicable with the most relevant of the 'de facto International Standards', i.e. National Standards in wide use. For ergonomic criteria this Standard aligns (with the exception of tilt angle) with a draft Standard produced by CEN-prEN1335-1, *Office chairs—Swivelling office chairs—Part 1: Dimensions—Definition of dimensions*. The difference in the tilt angle was seen by the committee to be necessary to align with Australian and New Zealand practice.

In relation to test methods for strength, durability and stability this was a more difficult decision. Eventually, however it was considered that BS 5459 was the more relevant to follow. It was chosen from a number of de facto International Standards as the best compromise which could be presented at this time whilst waiting on the CEN Standard to be finalized and published.

The German Standard DIN 4551 was also carefully considered in the discussions as AS/NZS 4438 was being drafted. The committee had difficulties in coming to a consensus decision on which of the two de facto Standards, German or British, was the appropriate one to have been the basis of this Standard. In order to overcome the difficulty and to achieve a publishable document that also adheres to our trade obligations, it was finally agreed that if a chair complies with one of the de facto Standards mentioned above, it may be considered as an alternative to showing compliance with this Standard, provided the combinations of Standards detailed in Clause 1.3 are adhered to.

The objective of this Standard is to provide purchasing authorities, specifiers, users, retailers and manufacturers with a uniform set of height adjustable swivel chair performance requirements that can form the basis of selection and evaluation criteria.

The terms 'normative' and 'informative' have been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which they apply. A 'normative' appendix is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an 'informative' appendix is only for information and guidance.

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