

# Australian/New Zealand Standard™

## **Furniture—Fixed height chairs**

### **Part 1: Ergonomic and general requirements**

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 14 December 1999 and on behalf of the Council of Standards New Zealand on 15 December 1999. It was published on 15 February 2000.

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The following interests are represented on Committee CS/88:

Australia Post  
Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
Australian Industry Group  
Commercial Furniture Industry Association of Australia  
Ergonomics Society of Australia  
Furntech, Australia  
National Furnishing Industry Association of Australia  
New Zealand Furniture Manufacturers Federation  
N.S.W. Department of Public Works and Services  
Plastics and Chemicals Industries Association, Australia  
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## **Furniture—Fixed height chairs**

### **Part 1: Ergonomic and general requirements**

First published as AS/NZS 4688.1:2000.

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Jointly published by Standards Australia International Ltd, PO Box 1055, Strathfield, NSW 2135 and Standards New Zealand, Private Bag 2439, Wellington 6020

ISBN 0 7337 3188 0

## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee CS/88, Commercial Furniture.

The technical content of this Standard was based on the ergonomic requirements from the National Occupational Health and Safety Commission (1991) *Ergonomic Principles and Checklists for the Selection of Office Furniture and Equipment. Checklist for Ergonomic Design of Non-adjustable chairs*. AGPS Press, Canberra.

This Standard is Part 1 of a series of requirements for dimensions and testing of fixed height chairs. Other Parts in this series are as follows:

Part 2: Determination of strength and durability

Part 3: Determination of stability—Upright chairs

Part 4: Determination of stability—Chairs with tilting or reclining mechanisms when fully reclined, and rocking chairs.

For chair types not covered by this Standard refer to AS/NZS 4438, *Height adjustable swivel chairs* and AS/NZS 3813, *Plastic monobloc chairs*. In the case of multiple seats, the tests in this Standard may be applied in the way described in BS 4875.3:1985, *Strength and stability of furniture, Part 3: Methods for determination of strength of settees*. For laboratory or technical seating, refer to DIN 68877—1981 *Swivelling work chair; safety requirements, testing*.

The term 'informative' has been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which it applies. An 'informative' appendix is only for information and guidance.

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## STANDARDS AUSTRALIA/STANDARDS NEW ZEALAND

**Australian/New Zealand Standard**  
**Furniture—Fixed height chairs****Part 1: Ergonomic and general requirements**

**1 SCOPE** This Standard sets out the dimensional requirements for chairs (excluding lounge chairs) or stools of fixed height with either fixed or swivel bases, intended to seat one person in an upright position such as when sitting at a desk or table. The requirements for adjustable height chairs and plastic monobloc chairs are not covered by this Standard.

**2 OBJECTIVE** The objective of this Standard is to provide specifiers and manufacturers with a Standard containing ergonomic requirements for chairs and stools and to enable purchasing authorities, retailers and users to use these criteria to assist in selection and evaluation.

**3 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS** The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

**AS**

- 2281 Flexible cellular polyurethane for seat cushioning and bedding
- 2282 Methods for testing flexible cellular polyurethane
- 2282.3 Part 3: Determination of apparent density

**AS/NZS**

- 1957 Textiles—Care labelling
- 4088 Specification for burning behaviour of upholstered furniture
- 4088.1 Part 1: Upholstery materials for domestic furniture—Smouldering ignitability
- 4438 Height adjustable swivel chairs
- 4688 Furniture—Fixed height chairs
- 4688.2 Determination of strength and durability
- 4688.3 Determination of stability—Upright chairs
- 4688.4 Determination of stability—Chairs with tilting or reclining mechanisms when fully reclined, and rocking chairs

**BS**

- 5852 Methods of test for assessment of the ignitability of upholstered seating by smouldering and flaming ignition sources

**AFRDI**

- 104.96 Performance of furniture and furniture components under various climatic conditions
- 108.96 Requirements for surface coatings for furniture

**4 DEFINITIONS** For the purpose of this Standard the definitions below apply.

**4.1 Importer**—the persons or corporate body assuming legal responsibility for the product under the relevant Commonwealth, State or Territory Regulation, if the product is not manufactured in Australia or New Zealand.