

# Australian/New Zealand Standard™

## Bunk beds

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## **AS/NZS 4220:2003**

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 19 September 2003 and on behalf of the Council of Standards New Zealand on 30 September 2003. It was published on 17 November 2003.

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The following are represented on Committee CS-003:

Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission  
Australian Consumers Association  
Australian Industry Group  
Australian Retailers Association  
Barnardos New Zealand  
Commercial Furniture Industry Association of Australia  
Competition and Consumer Policy Division, Department of The Treasury  
Consumer Affairs Victoria  
Consumers Federation of Australia  
Department of Consumer and Employment Protection, WA  
Department of Human Services, SA  
Department of Tourism, Racing and Fair Trading, Qld  
Furnishers Society of Victoria  
Furniture Association of New Zealand  
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Office of Consumer and Business Affairs South Australia  
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The Children's Hospital at Westmead

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# Australian/New Zealand Standard™

## Bunk beds

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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, following concern expressed by the 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. This Standard supersedes AS/NZS 4220:1994.

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 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.

The Committee considered raising 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 260 mm in this version of the Standard. However it was decided that further stakeholder consultation is required. This will be considered at the next revision of this Standard.

## CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
1 SCOPE.....	4
2 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS.....	4
3 DEFINITIONS.....	4
4 MATERIALS.....	5
5 CONSTRUCTION.....	7
6 DESIGN.....	7
7 SAFETY AND PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS.....	13
8 INFORMATIVE LABELLING.....	14
9 MARKING.....	15

## APPENDICES

A FALL-THROUGH AND ENTRAPMENT HAZARDS.....	16
B STABILITY.....	19
C FASTENING OF UPPER BED TO THE SUPPORTING STRUCTURE.....	20
D FATIGUE TEST ON JOINTS.....	22
E IMPACT TEST.....	24
F STATIC LOAD ON GUARDRAILS.....	26
G IMPACT LOAD ON GUARDRAILS.....	28
H LADDER ATTACHMENT.....	31
I STATIC LOAD ON TREADS.....	33
J IMPACT LOAD ON TREADS.....	34

## STANDARDS AUSTRALIA/STANDARDS NEW ZEALAND

**Australian/New Zealand Standard****Bunk beds****1 SCOPE**

This Standard specifies safety requirements for bunk beds. These include material, construction, design, and performance requirements, all of which are important for the well-being of the users (especially children) of bunk beds.

**2 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS**

The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

AS

2281 Flexible cellular polyurethane for seat cushioning and bedding

AS/NZS ISO

8124 Safety of toys

8124.1 Part 1: Safety aspects related to mechanical and physical properties  
(ISO 8124-1:2000, MOD)

8124.3 Part 3: Migration of certain elements

**3 DEFINITIONS**

For the purpose of this Standard, the definitions below apply.

**3.1 Bunk bed**

Either—

- (a) a set of components that are or can be assembled as beds, one stacked over the other (see Figure 1); or
- (b) any bed, other than a hospital bed in which the upper surface of any mattress base is at least 800 mm above the floor surface.

**3.2 End rail**

A lateral component, fastened between a pair of structural uprights.

**3.3 Gap**

An opening bounded either by solid components of a bunk bed (see A in Figure 2) or by solid components of the bunk bed and a straight imaginary boundary joining solid components in such a manner as to result in a maximum bounded area (see B in Figure 2).

**3.4 Grip**

A component with a circumference that allows a hand to hold and close around its entire circumference (see Figure 3).

NOTE: The maximum single grip width is 45 mm.

**3.5 Guardrail**

A component of the bunk bed intended to prevent an occupant from falling off the bed.

**3.6 Hazardous sharp edge**

An edge which fails the appropriate test specified in Clause 6.7.

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