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Product safety doesn't happen by accident...
A Guide to Bunk Bed Safety for the Accommodation Industry

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About bunk bed safety

Studies show that in Australia at least 3850 bunk bed-related injuries to children under 15 are treated every year by hospital emergency departments or by general practitioners.

Recently a bunk bed fall resulted in the death of a 10 year old while on a family holiday at Caloundra, on the Sunshine Coast. In another much publicised incident the parents of a boy who fell from a bunk bed while staying at friend's house successfully sued for over \$850,000 in damages. These startling statistics have led to regulators paying much closer attention to the issue of bunk beds.

All bunk beds supplied in trade or commerce in Australia must meet the Australian and New Zealand Standard for bunk beds (AS/NZS 4220). StanCert has experience in conducting independent and rigorous bunk bed inspections.

The benefits of engaging StanCert to conduct inspections of your bunk beds include:

- Extensive experience and the capability to conduct in-situ inspections of bunk beds to AS/NZS 4220.
- Our inspectors participated in the development of the bunk bed standard: AS/NZS 4220.
- An authoritative, objective, independent and professional assessment.
- Provision of a well defined and efficient set of actions and activities that are required to enhance compliance and safety of bunk beds.

In addition, the StanCert team is networked with coroners, academics, key regulators, standards bodies and test laboratories and can provide important information to deliver the best possible result for clients.

Bunk bed safety checklist

Some aspects that need to be inspected are shown below, however there are many other aspects that need to be professionally assessed. Please note that these aspects are based on the latest edition of the Standard.

1. Check that beds have a label or sticker that states the bunk bed complies with the mandatory standard. If there isn't one, ask the retailer. If the retailer cannot verify that it complies, do not buy it. Try to obtain an accredited test certificate for any bunk bed purchased that demonstrates compliance to AS/NZS 4220. Keep a copy of the certificate on file.
2. Check that there are no gaps sized [7 mm to 12 mm] , [30 mm to 50 mm] or [95 mm to 230 mm] in any part of the bed, including guardrails, to prevent children trapping their fingers, limbs or head.
3. Check for guardrails or bed-ends on all sides of the upper bed, ensuring that the tops of the guardrails are at least 360 mm above the top of the mattress base, to prevent children rolling out.
4. Check that ladders are firmly fixed and stable.
5. Check that all nuts and bolts are flush and smooth, and there are no protrusions of more than 5 mm that could catch onto clothing.
6. Ensure upper bunk is more than 2 metres from ceiling fans.
7. Regularly check that beds are stable and in good condition, for example check that nuts and bolts are tight.
8. Only children over nine years of age should use bunk beds.
9. Do not allow children to play on bunk beds