



Information Kit on Testing Office Swivel Chairs

1 Test Levels

Most furniture standards in Australia and overseas are performance standards - they take an "accelerated lifetime" approach. Naturally, the lifetime will depend on the application in which a product is used - some situations will be far harder on furniture than others. This is often addressed in Standards by designing test levels which reflect the relative severity of various uses.

The Australian/New Zealand Standard for Height Adjustable Swivel Chairs (known as AS/NZS 4438) has three test levels. The uses to which each might be appropriate are summarised below:

Level 4	Heavy Domestic or General Commercial	Normal office situations - 8 hour days - where there may be rough treatment from time to time.
Level 5	Heavy Commercial	In situations where there may be 24 hour use with some abuse - industrial applications, control rooms, etc.
Level 6	Severe Commercial	High use, high abuse applications such as guard rooms, security stations, etc., particularly where they are staffed on a 24 hour basis.

Please note that it is not possible to test chairs to a range of levels or to test to find out what level each chair would be. The owner of each chair needs to nominate the test level required in the light of its construction and intended use.

A chair standard suitable for particularly heavy people for 24/7 use has been developed. This is a very severe test. Details and testing price are available on request.