

Bunk Bed Safety Assessment Checklist

AS/NZS 4220:2026 Bunk Beds and Other Elevated Beds

Important Notice! *This checklist is **not the Australian/New Zealand Standard**. It is an Australian Camps Association interpretation of key safety requirements applicable to camps, outdoor education centres, holiday parks, hostels and other accommodation providers.*

Accreditation assessors may use this checklist as evidence of good risk management; however, facilities should refer to the full Standard where necessary.

Purchasing Bunk Beds

ACA strongly recommends that accommodation providers purchase bunk beds certified to:

AS/NZS 4220:2026 Level 2 – Severe Domestic / Commercial Use

OR

AFRDI 152 (certification to this standard includes compliance with AS/NZS 4220:2026 Level 2).

Level 2 beds are designed for occupants up to approximately 110kg and are intended for higher-use environments such as camps and hostels.

AFRDI 152 (Rated Load) Commercial are designed for occupants up to approximately 135kg and are also intended for higher-use environments such as camps and hostels.

Mandatory Safety Warning

The following warning should be displayed within bunk accommodation rooms and included in guest information:

WARNING — TOP BUNKS AND ELEVATED BEDS ARE DANGEROUS AND ARE NOT RECOMMENDED FOR CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF NINE (9).

Falls from elevated beds can be fatal and deaths have occurred where children have fallen from elevated beds. This is relevant for all ages. The risk is greater for younger children.

Additional Required Information

Accommodation providers should communicate the following to guests:

- Children under nine (9) years must not use upper bunks.
 - Bunks are not play equipment.
 - Users should not jump on bunk beds.
 - Defects must be reported immediately.
 - Only mattresses recommended by the manufacturer should be used.
 - The mattress surface must remain at least 160mm below the top edge of the guardrail.
 - Upper bunks must be located more than 2m from ceiling fans.
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Bunk Bed Assessment Checklist

Requirement	Assessment Question	Yes	No	N/A
Compliance	Is there evidence that the bunk bed complies with AS/NZS 4220:2026?	☐	☐	☐
Commercial Use	Is the bed certified as Level 2 for severe domestic/commercial use?	☐	☐	☐
Product Marking	Is the manufacturer, model number, manufacture date and level classification permanently marked on the bed?	☐	☐	☐
Height	If configured as a traditional bunk bed, is the upper mattress base no more than 1500 mm above the floor?	☐	☐	☐
	If configured as a loft/elevated bed, is the mattress base no more than 1600 mm above the floor?	☐	☐	☐
Bed Separation	Is there at least 750 mm between the upper surface of the lower mattress base and the underside of the upper mattress base where beds are aligned one above the other?	☐	☐	☐
Mattress Supports	Are mattress support components securely fixed and unable to move more than 5 mm?	☐	☐	☐
Mattress Ventilation	Does the mattress base provide at least four ventilation openings with a total area of at least 70 cm ² ?	☐	☐	☐
Guardrails	Are guardrails installed on all required sides of elevated sleeping surfaces?	☐	☐	☐
Guardrail Height	Is the top of the guardrail at least 360 mm above the mattress base?	☐	☐	☐
Mattress Clearance	Will the top surface of the mattress remain at least 160 mm below the top of the guardrail?	☐	☐	☐
Access Opening	Is the climbing access opening between 300 mm and 500 mm wide (Level 2)?	☐	☐	☐
Access Opening	Are there no more than four total guardrail openings?	☐	☐	☐
Handholds	Are grip points or transition grip aids provided on both sides of the climbing access opening?	☐	☐	☐
Ladder Attachment	Is the ladder or access device securely fixed to the bed?	☐	☐	☐
Ladder Width	Is ladder width between 300 mm and 500 mm?	☐	☐	☐
Ladder Spacing	Are ladder treads evenly spaced between 250mm and 325mm?	☐	☐	☐
Stairways	Where a stairway is provided, are stair widths between 400mm and 600mm?	☐	☐	☐

Important: Even if every item is marked Yes, facilities must continue to monitor the condition, use and maintenance of bunk beds as part of their risk management system. This completed checklist should be retained as part of the facility's hazard management and accreditation records. **Any item marked "No" should be investigated immediately and the hazard eliminated or controlled before the bunk remains in service.**

Requirement	Assessment Question	Yes	No	N/A
Stairway Barriers	Are stairways and access platforms protected by safety barriers?	☐	☐	☐
Tube Ends	Are all tubular ends capped or plugged?	☐	☐	☐
Sharp Edges	Is the bunk free from burrs, sharp edges and sharp points?	☐	☐	☐
Protrusions	Are all fasteners flush, recessed or domed and free from snag hazards greater than 5 mm?	☐	☐	☐
Shear/Squeeze Hazards	Are lids, flaps and moving components free from hazardous pinch points?	☐	☐	☐
Entrapment Hazards	Have all areas been checked for head, neck, limb and finger entrapment hazards?	☐	☐	☐
Storage Compartments	If storage compartments are incorporated into the bed, are ventilation openings provided?	☐	☐	☐
	Can enclosed storage areas be opened from inside if locking devices are fitted?	☐	☐	☐
Ceiling Fan Clearance	Is every upper bunk located more than 2 m from any ceiling fan blade?	☐	☐	☐
Nearby Hazards	Is the area around the bunk clear of hooks, shelves, sharp furniture edges and hanging cords?	☐	☐	☐
Windows	Is the bunk located away from windows and blind cords where practicable?	☐	☐	☐
Warnings Displayed	Is the required upper bunk warning displayed in accommodation areas?	☐	☐	☐
Maintenance	Is there evidence of periodic inspections and maintenance?	☐	☐	☐

Record of Inspection			
Date inspected		Accommodation Building	
Number of Bunks Inspected		Inspected By	
Corrective Actions Required			