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Rest easy, bunk bed safety

Bunk bed safety for short-term rental accommodation

Did you know that there will be new laws governing the use of bunk beds in short-term rental accommodation from October 2013?

Here are seven things you need to know right now.

1. The new law is called the Fair Trading (Safety Standards) Regulation 2011 and it comes into effect on 21 October 2013.
2. The new bunk bed law applies to anyone who offers short-term accommodation services, where bunk beds could be used by people under 16 years of age.
3. Short-term accommodation is defined as 'accommodation supplied in trade or commerce for a period of 60 days or less'.
4. Short-term accommodation providers are strongly encouraged to make any necessary changes to their bunk beds to make sure they meet the new mandatory safety standards.
5. The Office of Fair Trading has developed a compliance guide and checklist to help accommodation providers meet their new legal obligations and it is available on the Office of Fair Trading website www.fairtrading.qld.gov.au
6. The Office of Fair Trading does not recommend any child under nine years of age use a top bunk.
7. 85% of bunk bed related injuries are the direct result of a fall from a bunk bed, with most injuries suffered by children aged between 5–9 years old*.

* Sourced from Queensland Injury Surveillance Unit data

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