



IS 7378: 1974 Specification for Bed, Fowler's, Hospital

A Fowler's bed is a type of hospital or adjustable bed that allows the head and upper body to be raised at an angle, typically between 45 and 60 degrees, while the legs can either remain flat or be adjusted. This positioning, known as Fowler's position, is beneficial for patients with respiratory issues, heart conditions, or those needing assistance with breathing and digestion. It also helps reduce pressure on the lower back, aids recovery by promoting circulation, and reduces the risk of bed sores for patients who must remain in bed for extended periods.

A Fowler's bed is designed to support users by allowing adjustments for comfortable sitting, breathing, and digestion. It should be sturdy, with a non-slip grip to maintain stability at various angles, and provide ergonomic mattress support. The bed's castors are expected to be wear-resistant to ensure stability, and the leg pole should stay securely in position to withstand the user's weight.

This Indian standard specifies requirements for the head and leg sections to provide clear support and orientation for the respective body parts. It establishes minimum quality expectations for consumers and sets test methods for all requirements. The standard defines castor quality by referencing a specific document that addresses the unique demands of hospital environments. It also includes specifications for the freedom of movement of various bed components, with a detailed and unambiguous diagram of each bed section. To ensure consumer safety, the standard requires no sharp edges and subjects the product to various tests, including impact, mattress, adhesion, and performance tests. The impact test ensures the bed is safe to use, while the mattress test verifies mattress quality. The performance test checks for bed stability and mobility, and the adhesion test confirms that the paint does not peel off, ensuring no paint debris is present near the patient, which could affect their health.