

FIRA GOLD CERTIFICATION

The purpose of the tests is to focus on minimising product risk, alongside assessing long term performance.




Worktops and surface finishes assess abrasion, impact, scrape and scratch resistance; resistance to wet and dry heat; chemical resistance (to oils, acids, bleaches, tea and coffee).

Kitchen storage units (including doors, shelves, carcasses) and Components (including hinges, handles and drawer runners) are assessed for Structural performance (stability, safety, strength and durability).

Conformity to the requirements for the strength and durability of the structure of a unit is verified by applying to various parts; loads or forces simulating normal functional use, as well as foreseeable misuse, at one of two levels of severity. In our case we have the highest grade; Test level H (heavy duty) units which are for use in residential locations where heavy use can be expected or where users are unlikely to exercise care.


The following types of tests are specified:

1 HANDLING TESTS




Handling tests assess the ability of the article to withstand the load or forces that are likely to be encountered when assembling and installing the units.

2 STATIC LOAD TESTS



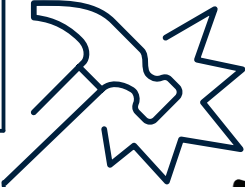
Static load tests assess the overall strength of the article under the highest levels of loading that can reasonably be expected to occur.

3 FATIGUE TESTS



The strength of the component parts of the article are tested by simulating the repeated application of forces and movement of components that occur during long-term use.

4 IMPACT TESTS



Impact tests assess the impact strength of the article under the rapid rates of force application that occur only occasionally.

FIRA International follow the tests methods outlined in the British standards BS 6222-2: 2009 +A1: 2017, you can see a video demonstrating the various testing on their website:

www.fira-international.com/resources/cabinet-and-table-testing-videos-2



An example of the weight bearing tests for our 600 wall unit is per calculations below. For the overload test the calculations were:

Top	600mm W x 330mm D x 2.5Kg/dm ² x 0.2 = 9.9Kg which is rounded up to 10Kg.
Shelf A	560mm W x 280mm D x 2.5Kg/dm ² x 0.4 = 15.6Kg which is rounded up to 16Kg.
Shelf B	560mm W x 280mm D x 2.5Kg/dm ² x 0.6 = 23.5Kg which is rounded up to 24Kg.
Base	560mm W x 3000mm D x 2.5Kg/dm ² = 42Kg

All the weight is evenly spread across the surface and remains on test for 7 days.

FIRA Gold Product Certification is only awarded after rigorous assessment against specified performance tests, backed by an ongoing audit and re-testing programme to ensure Certification standards are continually met.



Cert No. PC0051