FIRA Gold and furniture *test reports*

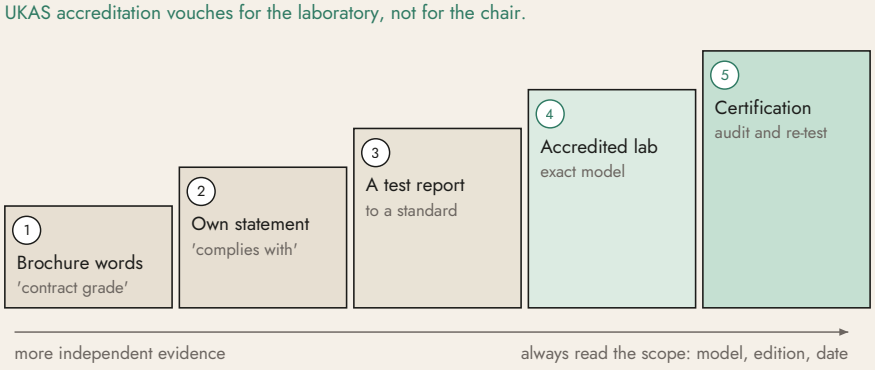
What 'tested', 'accredited', 'certified' and 'to standard' mean on furniture evidence, and what to ask for.

Compliance guidance. Guidance, not legal advice. The descriptions of FIRA's schemes come from FIRA's public pages and published certificates, and of UKAS from UKAS's own pages: check the scheme owner for the current rules. Nothing here says that Make Bespoke Studio or any partner workshop holds a FIRA scheme or any certificate.

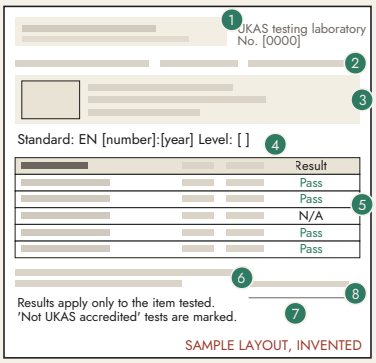
AT A GLANCE

Claim on the quote	What it can mean	What it does not show	What to ask for
'Contract grade', 'heavy duty'	Marketing words with no defined meaning	Any standard, level, test or date	The standard, edition and level, in writing
'Complies with' a standard	The supplier's own statement	Who tested, what, when, which model	The test report behind it
'Tested to' a standard, 'Level 1' pass	An item was tested, in house or at a test house; a sample passed at that severity	That your model or its variants are covered; other levels; the edition; anything outside the standard's scope	The full signed report: edition, level, model, results by clause, N/A lines
'UKAS accredited laboratory'	The laboratory is accredited for the tests on its schedule	That the product is certified or approved; that every test is in scope	The laboratory's number, its schedule, any 'Not UKAS accredited' marks
'Tested by' a test house logo	A licence for a named product that passed all of a standard's requirements (FIRA International's description)	A continuing check on production	The licence, the report and the standard named on the logo
'FIRA Gold certified'	A named product assessed against a scheme specification, then audited and re-tested (FIRA's description)	That every product the company sells is covered; that the certificate is in date	The certificate and its scope page; verify with the issuer
'CE' or 'UKCA' marked	No UKCA or CE regime for furniture as such was found; a mark may refer to a component	That the furniture is strong, durable or safe	What the mark refers to, and its declaration

The ladder is ours; the descriptions of FIRA schemes are FIRA's, from its public pages, and of accreditation UKAS's. A claim is only as good as the document behind it: read the scope, the model, the edition and the date.



A ladder of furniture claims. Each rung is more independent than the one before; accreditation is a separate question about the laboratory, not the chair. Original drawing by Make Bespoke Studio.



The parts of a structural test report to check, as an invented sample layout built from two accredited reports to EN 16139:2025 and UKAS's GEN 6. It is not a real report. Original drawing by Make Bespoke Studio.

SPECIFICATION WORDING

EVIDENCE, NOT BADGES

Compliance is to be shown by the full signed test report for the exact model and variants supplied, from a laboratory accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 [UKAS or equivalent] for the tests named, naming the standard, its edition and the level, dated within [12] months of the order. A logo, a statement of compliance, or a report on another model is not accepted in its place.

WHERE CERTIFICATION IS OFFERED

Where the supplier relies on third-party product certification [FIRA Gold or equivalent], supply the certificate and its scope page showing [this product] under [the scheme specification], in date, with the issuer's name and the certificate number so that it can be verified with the issuer. Certification does not replace the test reports above unless this specification says so.

WORDS THAT ARE NOT SPECIFICATIONS

Descriptions such as 'contract grade', 'heavy duty', 'commercial quality' and 'tested' do not specify anything. For each item the schedule states the standard, edition, level and the evidence required.

TERMS USED

Accreditation

Independent recognition by a national body such as UKAS that an organisation is competent and impartial for specific activities, such as testing. It applies to the laboratory, not to the product tested.

Schedule of accreditation

The list of the tests a laboratory is accredited to perform. A report only carries accreditation for the tests on it.

Product certification

A third party's check that a named product meets a standard or scheme, usually with audits. FIRA Gold is an example; the certificate lists the products covered.

STANDARDS AND SOURCES

- FIRA Gold Certification: scheme page; holders directory and certificates on fira-international.com.
- FIRA: Understanding your furniture test report: public summary, 21 July 2025; full guide members-only.
- UKAS: Accreditation vs certification: and GEN 6 Edition 2 (December 2022).
- ISO/IEC 17025:2017: competence of testing and calibration laboratories; named, not read.
- gov.uk: Using the UKCA marking: updated 21 August 2026.

Full guide: https://makebespoke.com/trade/technical/fira-gold-and-furniture-test-reports. Make Bespoke Studio coordinates manufacture through its partner workshops. Figures are guidance only and your specification governs; some may be superseded, so contact the studio to verify.