Ergonomic Assessment

By Brendan Grimes
Certified Professional Ergonomist

J.Burrows Kennedy 180kg High-Back Chair

JBKENEDYBK

Suited for people 181cm or taller.

*provided seat base measurement is met. See page 2 for guidance.

ADJUSTABLE CHAIR TILT

PADDED ARMRESTS

180KG WEIGHT CAPACITY

Summary

The chair is designed for taller individuals with reasonable comfort and support. Some may find the lumbar and headrest sections not quite in alignment with their back/shoulders. Generous high backrest and base for both width and length. It could be used for a boardroom and not more than 5 hours. Seat height adjustment allows for people about 181cm (5'11.5") or taller, provided seat base measurement is met*. The chair is well finished and has good fittings.

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AS/NZS 4438:1997 compliance[1] – Yes
AFRDI Rating[2] – Not rated for commercial use

Posture Support

The chair has a generous seat base and back rest, good cushioning, reasonable support, and comfort. The base is effectively flat but contoured at the front. The base has thick foam cushioning (100mm), and the backrest is reasonably thick. The backrest has a reasonably thick and contoured lumbar section, but it is a bit low, so it would not suit larger users. The headrest starts a bit low, so it appears to push the shoulders forward of taller users. There is good support for the thighs in the seat.

Adjustability

The seat height can be adjusted from 490mm to 585mm. The chair tilt has one lockable setting. Armrests are fixed in height. Controls are easy to operate (except for locking chair tilt positions) and accessible whilst sitting in the seat.

Stability

It appears reasonably strong and stable, but there is minimal rocking back and forward. This chair has a 180kg weight capacity, which means it is capable of withstanding heavy individuals. The chair is on a 5-castor chrome-plated steel pedestal base and pillar, which is strong and stable.

Upholstery, Covering, Corners and Edges

The seat base and backrest are PVC, polyurethane (PU leather), foam cushioning, and well upholstered. The corners and edges are well-rounded and smooth. There are no sharp projections, sharp edges or rough surfaces evident. Edges accessible to users are rounded with a minimum radius of 2mm. The ends and feet of tubular metal components are capped/closed and finished smoothly. It appears to have adequate air/water vapour permeability, except where non-permeability is required for hygiene or ease of cleaning. The foam thickness in the seat is good.

Dimensional Requirements / Anthropometrics[3]

Seat height adjustment from 490-585mm allows for people about 181cm (5'11.5") or taller. Seat depth is 510mm, suitable for people with a measurement of 500mm or more from their buttocks to the back of the knee (see note on Seat Depth measurement below). The width of the seat base is 555mm, and the width between the armrests is 560mm, essentially accommodating the whole population (at least 95%). Fixed armrests are 250mm above the seat, which would only suit taller people (top 75% of the population). Using an armrest would push shoulders up for users less than 250mm between the bottom of the elbow. The backrest height at 725mm and 590mm wide is a substantially sized high backrest suitable for most of the population.

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Seat Depth
While seated, measure from your buttock to the back of your knee, then subtract 40mm.

1 AS/NZS 4438:1997 Height-adjustable swivel chairs: Relevant standard for adjustable swivel office chairs. 2 AFRDI Rating: Rated by Australasian Furnishing Research & Development Institute Limited, independent tester/certifier of furniture products. Blue Tick Certification ensures stability, durability, ergonomic dimensions, safety and strength and ignition mitigation sources. Green Tick Certification means material is sustainably sourced, requires low operating energy, waste is minimised during production and the ability to recycle components at end of life of product is maximised. 3 Anthropometrics: Based on data from S Pheasant, Bodyspace, Anthropometry, Ergonomics and Design, 1988; World Engineering Anthropometry Resource.