
IDFL NEWS

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NEW SPECIE TEST METHOD

Accurate specie testing has been difficult in the past. Results for the same sample have sometimes varied.

IDFL has been researching the accuracy of specie testing for many years. We have a large database of multiple specie results for the same samples.

Together with Hohenstein of Germany we have proposed a new specie method to the International Down and Feather Bureau in Frankfurt.

In our work with Hohenstein, we concluded that specie accuracy is improved if a certain weight of material is tested rather than a specific number of pieces.

What is the problem with the old specie test methods?

1. The sample size is too small. (Especially with the 50-piece or smaller methods.)
2. In the old method the analyst must visually select the pieces to test. This subjective selection results in a sample that is less than random.
3. Goose material has had an increasingly larger portion of duck. (See related article.)

The proposed new method requires that all of the down or feathers in a certain weight be tested. Depending on average down or feather size, 80-200 pieces will be tested.

SPECIE TEST FOR DOWN

1. All down pieces in a 0.1g of material will be tested.
2. Clean down from the 2nd separation of the content analysis should be used.
3. Classify down pieces in three categories: goose, duck or unidentified.

SPECIE TEST FOR FEATHERS

1. Test all feathers in 1.0 gram of feathers.
2. Use clean, sorted feathers from the content analysis.
3. Classify feathers as goose, duck, landfowl or unidentified.

REPEAT SPECIE TESTING

If results are close to specie tolerance or vary greatly from expected values, the specie test should be repeated.

IDFL now completes double

SPECIE TEST METHOD COMPARISON

A sample of Grey Goose Down was used for this example. At least 10 separate specie tests for each method were completed. (Other samples yielded similar results.)

<u>Test Method Used</u>	<u>Range of Results (% Goose Found)</u>	<u>Average Results</u>
20 Piece Test Method	68 % - 100 %	83 %
50 Piece Test Method	72 % - 94 %	83 %
80 Piece Test Method	78 % - 90 %	84 %
Old Standard Method	75 % - 90 %	83 %
Proposed New Method (No repeat tests)	80 % - 91 %	85 %
Proposed New Method (Repeat tests completed)	82 % - 87 %	85 %

testing in **ALL** cases.

DOUBLE-TESTING

To improve testing accuracy, IDFL will often "double-test":

Content (Composition) IDFL always splits the sample. Two analysts test independently and results are compared. If results are too diverse, work is reviewed or a "3rd" sample is tested.

Specie. The new international specie method requires a re-test in some cases. IDFL is currently double testing in all cases.

Oxygen & Turbidity. Two separate samples are tested and compared.

Fill Power. Multiple results taken on different days are compared with the standard 5-day result.

DUCKS IN THE GOOSE POND?

The chart below shows how goose products contain an

increasingly larger percentage of duck over the past 5 years

GOOD NEWS FOR THOSE WORRIED ABOUT ALLERGY

Two recent studies from New Zealand and Germany show that dust mites are not particularly attracted to down and feathers. In fact, dust-mite allergen is found in higher concentration in synthetic fill pillows.

If pillows and comforters are filled with clean down and are properly laundered they do not represent a significant allergy problem.

IDFB NEWS

The International Down and Feather Bureau held its 1998 meeting in Gdansk, Poland.

The conference consisted of a public lecture portion and various committee meetings.

Stephen Palmer, Chairman of the Technical Committee, announced that final work would soon be

completed on revisions to the IDFB procedures for specie, oxygen, turbidity and fill power. **NEW STANDARDS FOR THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU)**

The European Union has been working on unified testing procedures and labeling standards for all countries in the European Union.

Progress has been made and work continues under the direction Luigi Cassigoli.

Many test procedures have already been adopted by the committee. It is hoped that the international IDFB standards will converge with many of the new European Standards.

Upon completion of this effort, IDFL will provide detailed information to its clients.

IDFL 20-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

IDFL is celebrating its 20th birthday in September 1998.

This world-wide industry has experienced amazing changes during the past 20 years.

We expect changes to come even faster during the next few years, as political and economic globalization continues.

FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT IDFL SERVICES PLEASE CONTACT:

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HISTORICAL TRENDS - GOOSE SPECIES

During the past 5 years IDFL has tested specie on 9,000 samples labeled as goose. The samples include raw material, washed and sorted bales of down and finished products.

The following shows that the actual goose content found in samples has consistently dropped during the past 5 years.

For example, in 1993 87% of samples tested 90% or higher. In 1998 only 57% of samples tested 90% or higher.

Range of Goose %	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
90% - 100%	87%	83	80	75	69	57
80% - 90%	8	10	13	18	22	29
Below 80%	5	7	7	9	14	

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