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# IDFL NEWS

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Issue No. 16

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## New USA Labeling Standards

The Association of Bedding and Furniture Law Officials (ABFLO) has announced new labeling standards for down and feather products sold in the USA.

ABFLO is the association of state officials who monitor and enforce correct labeling of down and feather products in the USA.

These standards are effective immediately. However, manufacturers will have 6-12 months to sell existing inventory labeled under the old system.

### BRIEF HISTORY OF DOWN AND FEATHER GUIDES

- 1964 Fed. Std. 148a test methods developed.
- 1971 FTC guidelines for down and feathers adopted.
- 1972 ABFLO revises and adds down test methods.
- 1998 FTC rescinds guides.
- 1999 FTC publishes down and feather brochure/guide.

1999 ABFLO revises down and feather labeling guides.

The new labeling guidelines meet the expectation of the FTC for more accurate labeling of down and feather products.

### "DOWN" PRODUCTS

The minimum required down for a "DOWN" label has been raised from 70% to 75%. (This is identical to Canadian standards.)

The actual down percentage must also be labeled.

### BLENDED PRODUCTS

The actual down percentage must be labeled for blended products. No tolerance of the

labeled down is allowed.

### OXYGEN NUMBER

The maximum oxygen number allowed has been reduced to 10.

## IDFB Annual Meeting in Beijing

The International Down and Feather Bureau (IDFB) will hold its annual meeting in Beijing June 6-12 1999.

This international trade association is comprised of the national trade associations. IDFB's work for the feather and down industry includes:

1. Promoting the down and feather industry in general.
2. Solving industry-wide problems that cross national borders.
3. Developing official testing methods.
4. Encouraging world-wide standards for down & feather products.

Jerry Hanauer of Pacific Coast Feather is currently President of IDFB. For information please contact your national trade association or:

**W. Jaxtheimer, IDFB Secretariat**  
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## **PROPOSED NEW EUROPEAN STANDARDS**

IDFL has received many inquiries about new down and feather labeling standards in Europe.

The European Union (EU) is developing Europe-wide test methods and label standards. The CEN/TC 222 committee will announce new rules mid-1999.

IDFL can test using the new European (EN) testing methods.

For questions please contact:

**Juliane Hedderich**  
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## **Page 2 - New USA LABEL STANDARDS (continued)**

The following are excerpts from the new ABFLO label standards.

### ***Percentage Claims***

A plumage product should not be designated as "100% Down," "All Down," "Pure Down," or other similar terms unless it contains 100% down.

### ***Tolerances***

No tolerance is allowed for the minimum percentage of down as stated in the above listed categories.

### ***Designation of species***

A plumage product may be labeled by the name of a designated waterfowl species if a minimum of 90% of the

waterfowl plumage contained therein is of that species.

### ***Cleanliness***

All plumage products must have an oxygen number of no greater than 10 as determined by the ABFLO/IDFB test for oxygen number.

### ***Adulteration***

The maximum content for certain components listed above are not to be construed to permit intentional adulteration of plumage products.

### ***Test Methods***

Testing shall be done according to test methods published by IDFB or ABFLO.

### ***Effective Date***

The new ABFLO labeling guides are effective immediately. Retailers and manufacturers will be given 6-12 months to allow for the sale of previously labeled products in inventory.

## **CONTENT ANALYSIS AROUND THE WORLD**

### **International (IDFB Method)**

The USA, Canada and other countries use the official IDFB method. Four grams of down or six grams of feathers are tested.

### **European (EN 12113 Method)**

The new European method requires two IDFB tests be completed for each sample. A third test is required under some circumstances.

### **Japanese (JIS Method)**

The Japanese require two IDFB tests of three (3) grams each. The JIS version of the IDFB test also require two categories of feathers based on length.

## **NEW IDFL PRICE LIST & SUBMITTAL FORM**

Attached to this newsletter is a new Sample Submittal Form. IDFL has temporarily reduced the price of content analysis.

The \$78 price commemorates the founding of IDFL in 1978.

Our mission is to provide impartial, independent results to each and every client.

FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER OR OTHER IDFL SERVICES PLEASE CONTACT:

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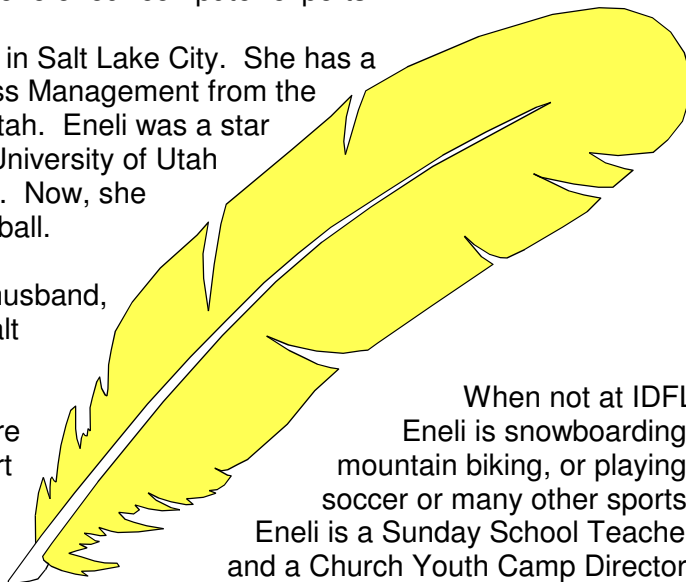
### Employee Spotlight -- Eneli Wood

Eneli Wood is a 7-year veteran of IDFL. She has worked in all areas of the laboratory. She currently is IDFL's speed testing champion and one of our computer experts.

Eneli was born in Salt Lake City. She has a B.A. in Business Management from the University of Utah. Eneli was a star player for the University of Utah volleyball team. Now, she coaches volleyball.

Eneli and her husband, John, live in Salt Lake City.

Eneli's signature on a test report insures quality results for IDFL clients.



When not at IDFL Eneli is snowboarding, mountain biking, or playing soccer or many other sports. Eneli is a Sunday School Teacher and a Church Youth Camp Director.