
IDFL NEWS

Issue No. 18

April 2000

New Labeling Standards for Europe, USA

Both the European Union and the USA have officially adopted new labeling standards for down and feather products.

EUROPEAN STANDARDS

In December 1999, the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) adopted new standards for labeling down and feather products. CEN spent 8 years developing test methods and labeling standards.

The CEN member countries are:

Austria	Italy
Belgium	Luxembourg
Czech Republic	Netherlands
Denmark	Norway
Finland	Portugal
France	Spain
Germany	Sweden
Greece	Switzerland
Iceland	United
Kingdom	
Ireland	

In Germany the new standards are effective May 1, 2000.

The new label divides products by "CLASS". Classes 1-3 are waterfowl products. Class 1 is

the highest quality level. (See attached document for details.)

NEW USA 2000 STANDARD

New labeling standards have been announced in the USA. The USA has the strictest yet simplest standard in the world.

"DOWN" products must now have at least 75% down cluster. Blends must label the actual down cluster % on the law tag. The FTC expects products to **now** comply with the idea of the new standard regardless which law tag label system is used.

(See attached for details)

New labels can be used starting

April 1, 2000. Retail stores have until **June 1, 2001** to sell products with old law tag labels. (**January 1, 2001** in California.)

"CLUSTER" - World-wide term for down components.

IDFL proposes that "**CLUSTER**" or "**DOWN CLUSTER**" be used world-wide to describe the following group of components:

1. Downs (pods or pieces)
2. Nestling Downs
3. Plumules

"DOWN" has many meanings. Some countries have four separate definitions for "DOWN"

"Down Cluster" in product

IDFB Annual Meeting in Las Vegas

The International Down and Feather Bureau (IDFB) will hold its annual meeting in Las Vegas June 4-6, 2000.

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:

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specifications will reduce confusion. **"Cluster Count"** and **"Cluster Size"** are already common industry terms.

The USA-FTC agrees that **"Down Cluster"** is a proper term for use on a consumer label.

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DOWN & FEATHER PRICE INCREASES IN CHINA

Down, especially goose down, is in short supply in China. Prices have increased by as much as 30% recently.

Short supplies compounded by strong demand in Japan and the USA may cause problems for buyers later this year.

Manufacturers should monitor

the following signs to **avoid** quality problems:

1. Excessive wash loss in raw materials.
2. Higher than normal duck in goose material.
3. Higher landfowl feathers in waterfowl products.
4. Higher than normal fiber content in products.

and conference room is also being added.

The expansion project will be completed by June 2000. Our grand re-opening will immediately follow the IDFB convention on June 8, 2000.

Please contact IDFL to schedule a visit or a training seminar in our newly remodeled building.

IDFL LABORATORY IS EXPANDING

IDFL began an expansion of its laboratory building in January.

To accommodate our increasing test load, we are adding several work stations for down and feather testing. All existing rooms will be enlarged and remodeled. A larger training

Employee Spotlight -- Rachel Kasteler

Rachel Kasteler is an Analyst at IDFL. She is a 5-year veteran of down and feather testing, having joined the company in 1994

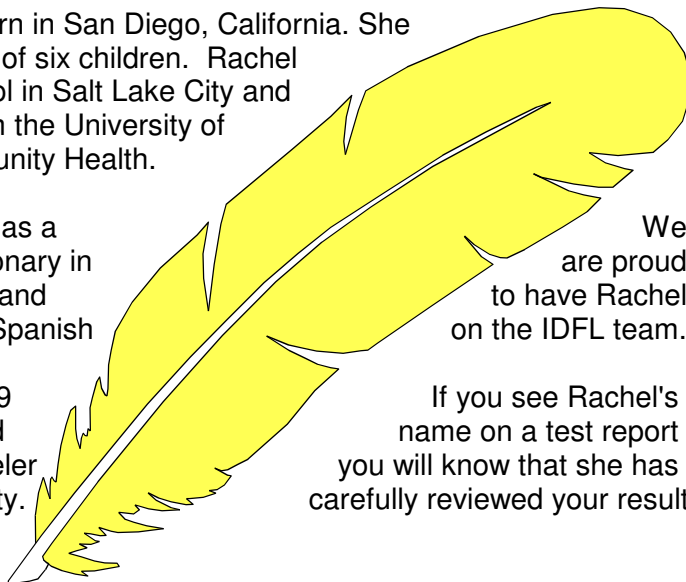
Rachel was born in San Diego, California. She was the oldest of six children. Rachel attended school in Salt Lake City and graduated from the University of Utah in Community Health.

Rachel served as a Mormon missionary in Miami, Florida and speaks fluent Spanish

On Dec 6, 1999 Rachel married Christian Kasteler in Salt Lake City.

We are proud to have Rachel on the IDFL team.

If you see Rachel's name on a test report you will know that she has carefully reviewed your results.



IDFB TEST METHODS ARE NOW USED WORLD-WIDE

The new European Standards and new USA standards both specify IDFB testing methods to determine compliance with government regulation.

The current IDFB test method for composition (or content analysis) was first developed by Wilford Lieber Sr. over 30 years ago. Wilford has worked tirelessly to achieve world-wide acceptance of this test method.

IDFL continues to work with IDFB and other leading organizations to improve down testing and classification procedures.

IDFL is currently working with Hohenstein, Germany and the Japan Down Products Corporative Association on improving the reliability of Oxygen and Turbidity Testing.

FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT
THIS NEWSLETTER OR
OTHER IDFL SERVICES
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