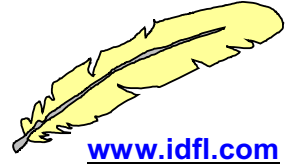




IDFL NEWS



International Down and Feather Laboratory and Institute

Serving down and feather industries worldwide for 25 years.

Issue No. 24

January 2003

IDFL Europe Completes First Year of Operation

IDFL Europe completed its first year of operation. Samples were received from 14 different countries. Additional testing capability was added during 2002.

Suoma and Max Lieber manage the laboratory in Pfn, Switzerland. Pfn is a small rural town near Frauenfeld, about 40 minutes from the Zürich Airport.

Max is a chemical engineer and has spent many years in industry and in government regulation. Suoma worked previously in health care.

IDFL continues to expand work in China

China accounts for about 70% of the world's supply of raw down and feathers. Chinese washing & sorting capacity continues to increase along with finished goods production.

To help insure quality of exported products, IDFL has done the following during 2002:

IDFL/CIQ Laboratory in Hangzhou

IDFL has a joint laboratory agreement with the CIQ Down and Feather Lab in Xiaoshan/Hangzhou China.

Clients can send samples to the CIQ laboratory for joint testing by IDFL and CIQ. Samples are split in ½ -- CIQ tests ½ and sends ½ to IDFL for the double test. The results are compared, re-checked if needed, and the final report is sent from IDFL's office in Salt Lake City, USA.

IDFB 2003 meeting in Kyoto

The annual meeting of the International Down and Feather Bureau (IDFB) will be held June 8-10, 2003 in Kyoto, Japan.

Reports will be given on markets in Asia, North America and Europe. Technical meetings and laboratory workshops will also be held.

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Chinese Visits to Salt Lake City

Representatives of the China Feather and Down Industrial Association (CFDIA) have made several visits to IDFL. Mrs. Yao Xiaoman, CFDIA Secretary General leads the effort to work with IDFB.

The China Chamber of Commerce for Down and Feather Products sent a large delegation to IDFL in October 2002.

They announced that the Chinese Standard will be reworked to include IDFB test methods and new labeling laws.

Other IDFL work in China

IDFL recently presented a series of lectures in Beijing, Hangzhou, and Nanjing on down and feather topics.

Many European and USA manufactures use IDFL to test quality of imported goods from China.

Update on USA-2000 Labeling Standard

Most down and feather products sold in the USA are labeled correctly.

Additional state regulators now use the USA-2000 Standard. FTC requires all manufacturers to use the new labeling standard, even in states where no law exists. A few common problems are:

1. Many 95/5 feather/down products, do NOT have the minimum 5% down.
2. Some jackets use the old FTC tolerances. The sewn-in label must use the new USA-2000 Standard.
3. Some "DOWN" products do not contain the minimum 75% down.

Fabric Downproof Problems

Many new fabrics used in down and feather products are not downproof.

Before using new fabrics, a careful evaluation of "downproofness" should be completed. Contact IDFL for help.

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