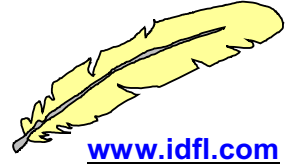




IDFL NEWS



International Down and Feather Laboratory and Institute

Serving down and feather industries worldwide for 25 years.

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USA Labeling Standards for Jackets

Down clothing does not require the complex USA law tag needed for bedding products. However, the USA-2000 down and feather standards must be followed in labeling jackets and other clothing.

- A jacket labeled "DOWN" must have a minimum of 75% down. (Blended products must declare the actual tested down percentage.)
- The jacket should contain the manufacturer name and address or the Federal FTC RN Number.
- Jacket and clothing manufacturers must register with the state of Utah.

Examples of sewn-in labels

Goose down jacket:

WHITE GOOSE DOWN
(Minimum 75% Down)

Blended duck down/feather jacket:

DOWN & FEATHERS
65% Down
35% Waterfowl Feathers

IABFLO Comments on 95/5 Labeling Problems

William Cale, current president of IABFLO, gives the following advice:

Down sorting equipment is now better at removing down. In the past it was assumed that at least 5% down remained in feathers after sorting. Not so today...

Manufacturers should include at least 5% down in products labeled "95% FEATHERS / 5% DOWN." Otherwise use the label: "Waterfowl Feathers" or "Goose" or "Duck Feathers."

IDFL 25-Year Anniversary

July 25 Opening Anniversary Garden
 Aug 12-18 Open House during Summer Outdoor Retail Show
 Sep 25 Anniversary Celebration Party
 July 25-Sep 25 General Open House for all clients and friends

USA Registration/Permits

Several states in the USA require registration and permits for the sale of down and feather bedding products.

If you intend to sell, offer to sell (through catalogue or online sales), distribute, manufacture, or import down-filled products to any of these 18 states you **must register** with that state.

For down clothing, you **must register** with the State of Utah.

Generally, this simply entails contacting the appropriate state office, filling out required registration forms, and paying a fee. IDFL can help companies complete and understand the registration process.

This issue will take on increased importance as internet commerce continues to expand and new laws and regulations are set forth.

Downproofness

Downproofness describes the ability of fabric to retain down and feathers. The leakage of filling material can be avoided by proper testing of the fabric.

Many new fabrics are now being used in down and feather products. These new fabrics should be carefully tested.

Threadcount, air permeability, and a physical rubbing or tumbling test are all important parts of downproof testing. IDFL recommends that fabrics be tested for downproofness both before and after washing the fabric.

Cleanliness of Down and Feather Products

Cleanliness begins at the feather processing plant. All plumage must be washed at high temperatures and sterilized during the drying process.

USA Sterilization Permit

To sell down and feathers in the USA, a processing plant must obtain a "sterilization permit."

Factory Inspection

IDFL is authorized by the State of Pennsylvania to complete the necessary plant inspection required before receiving the sterilization permit. IDFL offices in Asia and Europe can complete the inspection.

Minimum Cleanliness Indicators

Oxygen number is the best indicator of cleanliness. It must be 20 or less. Turbidity is an indicator of dust. This should be 300 mm or higher.

Super-Clean/Hypoallergenic Labels

These or similar labels require an oxygen number of 4.8 or less and a turbidity result of 500 mm or more.

Other cleanliness indicators

In Europe microbiological tests may also be required. Other tests such as fat & oil % may be helpful.

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