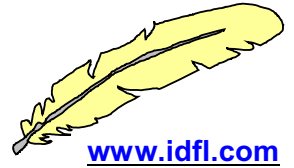




IDFL NEWS



International Down and Feather Laboratory and Institute

Serving down and feather industries worldwide for 25 years.

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Update on Fill Power

Fill power continues to be a major factor in classifying qualities of down and feathers. IDFL is involved in several research projects involving fill power.

New "Lorch" Fill Power Meter

Mr. Hermann Pfrommer has just shipped several fill power meters. These newly designed machines contain improvements on the old Lorch model and continue to meet specifications for IDFB and Europe.

IDFL ordered the first 10 units for its clients. Please contact IDFL if you wish to place an order for the new fill power meter.

EN 12130 European Fill Power

Fill power has traditionally been reported two ways in Europe:

1. mm/30g has been the fill power unit for most of Europe.
2. mm/20g was the unit of measure for Scandinavia.

In 1998 the new European Standard (EN 12130) specified mm/20g and the corresponding g/cm³ as units of measure.

The g/cm³ is helpful because it is a true "volume" measurement much like cubic inches per oz.

Tumble Dry Conditioning

IDFB approved tumble dry conditioning as an accepted method in 1999.

Also in 1999, PAS 1003 expanded EN 12130 to include tumble dry conditioning in fill power testing.

In 2002, IDFB adopted tumble dry as standard conditioning for both bulk down and finished products.

Japan is researching "steaming" conditioning as an alternative to tumble dry conditioning.

IDFB 2004 meeting in Moscow

The annual meeting of the International Down and Feather Bureau (IDFB) will be held in June 2004 in Moscow, Russia.

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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Does 900 Fill Power Really Exist?

IDFL tested about 30 samples of 900 fill power down during the past year. Two years ago a 900 fill product was rare.

We have tested 900 fill power from a variety of feather processors. However, we believe the supply is extremely small. Market demand is much higher than the supply. Buyers should carefully test before accepting a 900 fill power claim.

Water Rinse Conditioning

IDFL continues research on water rinse conditioning for fill power testing. This may be the only way to accurately test fill power on some jackets and sleeping bags (especially if shipped compressed).

Insulation Factors

IDFL is reviewing "insulation factors" for use in comparing down comforters. Such a factor would give consumers a more educated comparison of different products and their insulation capabilities.

Revisions to Chinese Down and Feather Standards

China is reviewing and revising the standards for down and feathers.

The IDFB testing methods will likely be the base of the new Chinese test procedure regulations.

The China Feather and Down Industrial Association and the China Chamber of Commerce for Down and Feathers are involved in this project along with help from the CIQ laboratories.

Upcoming Meetings

Sep 19, 2003 - ADFS New York City
Sep 25, 2003 - IDFL 25th Anniversary
Oct 19, 2003 - ASTM Tampa, FL
Oct 25, 2003 - EDFA Madrid, Spain
Oct 25, 2003 - Beijing Down Fair

Jan 13, 2004 - Heimtex Frankfurt
Mar 3, 2004 - IABFLO San Antonio

IDFL's 25th Anniversary

IDFL invites all clients and friends to visit us during 2003 to help celebrate our 25th anniversary.

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