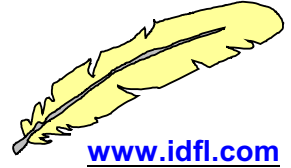




IDFL NEWS



International Down and Feather Laboratory and Institute
Serving down and feather industries worldwide for 27 years.

Issue No. 42

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DOWN IS STILL THE WORLD'S BEST INSULATION

Light and Warm

Gram for gram, down provides the best insulation for bedding, apparel and sleeping bags.

Down is Still the Best Filling

People around the world from European families to wilderness expedition staff always choose down for bedding & apparel. Down is also the insulation of choice for billions of migrating birds who spend time in both freezing wet Arctic conditions and warm tropical conditions.

There is no "Synthetic Down"

No true synthetic down has ever been developed. (In fact, the term "synthetic down" is illegal in Europe.) The proper term for such synthetics is "down alternative."

Down is Washable

Down and feathers are resilient and washable. After multiple washings, down retains and revives its lofting capability. Large down products are best cleaned by professionals.

Flammability? Down is Low Risk

Down products pass flammability tests. Other materials (especially synthetics) require FR or other treatments to pass the same tests.

Cleanliness: Is Down Safe?

Down and feathers are safe and clean. All countries in the world have minimum cleanliness/hygenic requirements. Down and feathers are usually washed and sterilized at 130°C (260°F) for 20-30 minutes. No harmful material can survive. Avian flu is **NOT** a danger for down and feather products.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Braden Andersen has been named **IDFL's Manager for Fabric & Related Testing**. Braden is responsible for IDFL's fabric testing including downproof-related tests, AATCC & ASTM textile tests, and finished product inspection. Braden will also work with our partner textile labs.
- Matthew W. Lieber will move to China in May 2005 as **Manager of IDFL's China's Office**.

IDFL FACTS

- More than **900 clients**
- Samples from **48 countries**
- **67 employees** in Salt Lake
- Offices in **Europe and China**

IDFL has membership in

- **IDFB** (International)
- **IABFLO** (Regulations)
- **EDFA** (Europe)
- **ADFS** (USA)
- **CFDIA** (China)
- **ASTM** (Standards)
- **AATCC** (Textile Standards)
- **IDFB-Certified** Laboratory
- **DPSC-Qualified** Laboratory

Sleeping Bag Temperature Rating Testing

IDFL can help arrange for either the ASTM or the EN warmth rating systems through our work with Kansas State University. Call IDFL for details.

Industry Meetings

Selected topics are listed for recent industry and regulatory meetings:

ABFLO March 2005

- Discussion of "Country of Origin" with FTC
- Return of Bedbugs to the USA
- Proposed Flammability Standards for Bedding

ASTM March 2005

- ASTM Textile Standards Committee.
- Update on Bedding Flammability Standards
- Threadcount clarification for 2-ply yarns

ADFS / HFWA March 2005

- Compliance Program to evaluate products that fail USA-2000 Down & Feather Standards
- Mr. Leo Hollander, chairman, passed away recently. Stephen Palmer is the new chairman.

EDFA February 2005

- Discussion of changes to EN Test Methods
- New EN 13186 - Bedding Specification
- EN Downproof Test Methods

IDFB Kyoto Meeting - June 2005

- Annual Meeting will be in Kyoto
- Steam Conditioning will be discussed
- 2006 Meeting will be held in Park City, USA

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