



## Clarifying Thread Count

During the October 2005 ASTM Textile Committee meetings in Dallas, Texas, enhanced clarification was recommended that would reduce the confusion surrounding thread count labeling for products with multiple ply yarns.

It was recommended that multiple ply thread counts be listed as such. For example, future labeling should be expressed as, "300 thread count, 2 ply yarn," instead of the misleading, "600 thread count," currently seen in the market.

The ASTM currently defines Thread Count as: "...the sum of the number of warp yarns (ends) and filling yarns (picks) per unit distance...; individual warp and filling yarns are counted as single units regardless of whether comprised of single or plied components."

Multiple ply yarns should only be counted as a single yarn regardless of the number of plies.

## Flammability

The California Department of Consumer Affairs' Bureau of Home Furnishings & Thermal Insulation held a task force meeting in October 2005 in Sacramento, California. Discussed was TB 604 – "The Test Procedure and Apparatus for the Flame Resistance of Filled Bedclothing." Manufacturers and retailers from around the US attended the meeting to discuss the preliminary repeatability tests and coordinate a full inter-laboratory study.

The question of down and feather filled bedclothing was briefly addressed. A draft of the "Products Subject to TB 604 Standard" from November 2005 stated that, "Comforters, bedspreads, quilts filled with plumage will be exempted."

Bureau officials expressed their desire to finish inter-laboratory testing and complete the statistical analysis by October 2006. It is hoped that the final version of TB 604 will be available soon thereafter.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The **International Down and Feather Bureau (IDFB)** Meeting will be held in Park City, Utah, USA in June 2006. We look forward to welcoming visitors to our laboratory and city.
- With the **avian flu** media blitz in full force IDFL wants to reiterate the **safety of down and feather filled products**. There is **no risk** of contracting avian flu from these products due to stringent cleanliness requirements.

## Downproofness

IDFL recently tested the downproofness of cotton fabrics of similar construction from Germany and Asia. They were both filled with similar mixtures of down and feathers. The fabric from Germany performed much better than the fabric from Asia.

A fabric manufactured by a reputable supplier will tend to perform better than a fabric of similar construction manufactured using substandard materials and practices.

## IDFB Approves Steam Conditioning for Fill Power

During the June 2005 IDFB meetings in Kyoto, Japan, the International Down & Feather Bureau (IDFB) approved "Steam Conditioning" as the official worldwide fill power conditioning method.

Steam conditioning will restore the original fill power (as tested immediately after washing & drying). Steam conditioning will also give the maximum potential fill power in any bulk down or finished product. Steam conditioning is especially useful for determining original fill power of products that have been shipped, compressed and/or stored.

IDFL has tested over 3,000 samples using steam conditioning and we are confident in the reliability of results.

The Japanese Steam Method and the IDFL-USA Steam Method both give similar results. IDFB will review these methods and a single method will be approved by January 2006.

**IDFL MAIN** info@idfl.com  
1455 South 1100 East  
Salt Lake City, UT 84105 USA  
Tel: +1 801 467 7611  
Fax: +1 801 467 7711

**IDFL EUROPE** suomax@idfl.com  
Attn: Max Lieber  
Käsereistr. 17, 8505 Pfyn **Switzerland**  
Tel: +41 52 765 1574  
Fax: +41 52 770 1574

**IDFL/CIQ CHINA** zjfdl@163.net  
Attn: Matt Lieber / Jeff Song  
Tonghui Mid-Road 118, Xiaoshan Dist  
Hangzhou, Zhejiang 311208 **CHINA**  
Tel: +86 571 8272 3575  
Fax: +86 571 8273 3654