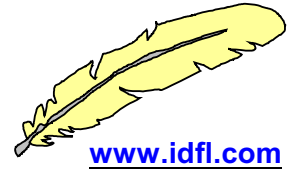




IDFL NEWS



International Down and Feather Laboratory and Institute
Serving down and feather industries worldwide for **28 years**.

Issue No. **45**

January 2006

Demand for Down & Feather Products Continues to Grow

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

Around the world, down and feather products for bedding and apparel continue to grow in popularity.

In China and the USA increases are seen in finished product sales.

In Japan and Europe a continued market for replacement products dominate trade.

Down and feather popularity is growing for a number of reasons:

- Down has the highest insulation ratio to weight of any filling.
- New fabrics and constructions have allowed a "fashion flexibility" in down products.
- No true "synthetic down" has ever been developed.
- Down is very washable.
- Downproof fabrics allow fabric to breathe and at the same time prevent down leakage.
- **Down is a renewable, sustainable product.**

This increased demand does create potential shortage of supply.

If the down supply is tight, retailers and importers need to have good quality testing programs to insure compliance with internal product specifications and government regulations.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- In June 2006 Park City, Utah will host the annual meeting of the International Down and Feather Bureau (IDFB).

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- **The American Down and Feather Council (ADFC) has announced a labeling compliance program.**

ADFC Chairman, Mr. Stephen Palmer, notes that the program includes a "Seal of Approval" for members' compliant products.

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IDFL Review for 2005

IDFL continues to expand. Here are some of the highlights for 2005.

- Suresh Shah of Independent Feather and Down Laboratory in New Jersey retired. IDFL agreed to continue serving Shah's clients through IDFL.
- IDFL has more than 2,000 clients.
- Samples from 51 countries.
- 80 employees in our 3 labs.
- IDFL tested 7,000 samples in 2005.
- In Salt Lake IDFL now has 3 separate Fill Power testing rooms
- Expanded Fabric Testing capacity.

Steam Conditioning is now the Official IDFB Fill Power Method

In the June 2005 Kyoto IDFB meeting Steam Conditioning was accepted as the Official IDFB Fill Power method.

The details of the procedure were agreed to in the IDFB January 2006 Frankfurt Technical Committee meeting.

EDFA 25-year Anniversary

The European Down and Feather Association (EDFA) celebrated its 25-year anniversary in 2005.

EDFA has helped develop the Europe-wide down and feather standards which replaced many national standards.

EDFA has also developed several great quality programs for down and feathers such as Daunasan® and Nomite®.

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