



IDFL NEWS



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International Down and Feather Laboratory and Institute
Serving down and feather industries worldwide for **29 years**.

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IDFB Approves New Definition for Quill Feathers

IDFB has adopted a new definition for quill (long) feathers. IDFB approved the following new quill feather definition:

- **Quill Feathers are stiff wing and tail feathers which are over 12 cm in length or which have a quill point exceeding 10mm in length**

Quill Feathers are a problem if the shaft and/or the quill point is too sharp and stiff.

Generally only wing and tail feathers cause problems. Some body feathers can be very long but very soft and flexible without sharp and stiff quill points and/or shafts.

IDFB encourages all national and regional organizations to replace existing quill definitions with the new IDFB definition.

Average Feather Length is now part of Official IDFB Test Methods.

The official text of the IDFB Average Feather Length Test Method was approved during 2006.

This test gives a worldwide standard for describing the average length of feathers and the distribution of different feathers sizes in a sample.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- In June 2007 Edinburgh, Scotland will host the annual meeting of the International Down and Feather Bureau (IDFB).

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- **Blake Boyer has been named Manager of IDFL China.** Blake and his wife, McKelle will live in Xiaoshan, China. Matthew Lieber will continue to work for IDFL China in Beijing.

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Feather Pre-Sort is now part of Official IDFB Test Methods

The final text of the IDFB Feather Pre-Sort Test Method was approved during 2006.

This test gives a much more accurate result for feather samples.

Laboratories should complete the test whenever a sample has a significant number of long/large feathers. This method sorts out large feathers in a 20-50+ gram sample before completing the normal content/composition test.

Does Double Testing Improve Accuracy of Content and Specie?

The IDFB Technical Commission (TC) discussed double testing during the January 2007 TC meeting in Frankfurt.

Currently, both Europe and Japan require double testing. Data was presented to the TC showing that double testing will yield results with a smaller testing tolerance.

The IDFB test method does not prohibit split or double testing. However, it assumes that only a single test be done.

IDFB agreed to further investigate the issues for the June 2007 meeting in Edinburgh, Scotland.

IDFL Institute has double tested for all content & specie for the past 10 years. After completing several thousand comparison tests, IDFL found double testing more accurate.

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