



AUSTRALIA ANNOUNCES New Down & Feather Labelling Standard

After some work with industry and consumer groups a new labelling standard has been announced in Australia.

The Australian Competition & Consumer Commission (ACCC) hopes that the new standard will give more accurate information to retail buyers and consumers about the actual content of down and feather products sold in Australia.

The most important change is the down cluster tolerance. In the previous AS 2479-1987 standards, the minimum down cluster allowed was 85% of the claimed down cluster.

The new standard requires the down cluster to be at least 100% of the claimed down cluster. This is similar to the USA labelling standard.

For example, a product can be labeled

- **90% down, 10% down fibre and small feathers**

Such a product has the following requirements:

- 90 % minimum down cluster
- 0 % landfowl allowed
- 2 % max damaged feathers
- 2 % max residue
- 10 % max down fibre
- 10 % max feather fibre
- 10 % max of previous 5 items

Specie Standard

If specie (goose or duck) is claimed then 90% of the material must be of that specie.

Cleanliness Requirements

Maximum 10 Oxygen
pH between 4.0 and 7.0

Fill Power Claims

After proper conditioning, the fill power of the finished product must be within $\pm 5\%$ of claim

If no testing of products is done, "down" cannot be listed on label and the product can only be labelled "feathers".

The Australian test methods are similar to the EN test methods.

Contacts for Help with Australian Standard

- IDFL has material to help understand the Australian Standards
- The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) can help with compliance issues in Australia. See their web site.
- Mr. John Tranter is an expert in Australian standards and down & feather testing. Please contact at: jandm-t@bigpond.net.au

JAPAN ANNOUNCES Down Jacket Standards

Japan has very strict requirements for bedding products. Japan down and feather bedding products are some of the best in the world.

Until now down jackets and down vests have not been required to follow these standards.

A new law has been passed in Japan that requires adherence to strict standards for labeling of down jackets and vests.

The requirement will be similar to bedding which allows a $\pm 5\%$ tolerance in declaration of down cluster. The Japan standard is very strict for fibres, residue and landfowl.

IDFL will provide additional information as it becomes available. Please contact the Japan Down Association for details.

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

IDFL EUROPE suomax@idfl.com
Attn: Max Lieber
Bahnhofstrasse 42
8500 Frauenfeld SWITZERLAND
Tel: + 41 52 765 1574
Fax: + 41 52 770 1574

IDFL CHINA china@idfl.com
Attn: Blake Boyer
Tonghui Mid-Road 118, Xiaoshan Dist
Hangzhou, Zhejiang 311208 CHINA
Tel: + 86 571 8389 9215
Fax: + 86 571 8389 9179