
IDFL NEWS

Issue No. 7

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IDFL turns 18

International Down and Feather Testing Laboratory celebrates 18 years of service in the down and textile industries.

Who founded IDFL?

Wilford and Mary Jean Lieber founded IDFL in 1978. IDFL is a privately-held family company.

Wilford has over 30 years of experience in down and textile testing. He has provided his technical expertise to countless government agencies and companies around the world. Today, Wilford Sr. serves as IDFL's chairman.

Mary Jean ran the day-to-day testing operation for many years. She has trained analysts in locations around the world. She is our training consultant and serves on the IDFL board.

Wilford Lieber, Jr. began consulting with IDFL in 1986. He has a background in business and lengthy experience in quality assurance. Wilford Jr. is IDFL's president.

How many employees?

IDFL has 30 employees with 175 years of combined experience. 12 employees have college degrees and 7 others are currently working on

degrees in such fields as chemistry and education.

How many tests has IDFL completed?

IDFL has received over 30,000 samples and performed over 100,000 tests.

Our capability includes 22 tests for feathers and down and 10 textile/fabric related tests.

The most popular test is the content analysis (composition).

Our newest tests involve environmental and cleanliness issues.

Who are IDFL's clients?

IDFL has over 500 clients in the following countries:

Australia	Ireland
Austria	Israel
Belgium	Italy
Canada	Japan
Chile	Korea
China	Liechtenstein
Cyprus	Luxemburg
Czech Rep.	Poland
Denmark	Romania
England	Singapore
Finland	South Africa
France	Spain
Germany	Switzerland
Holland	Sweden
Hong Kong	Taiwan
Hungary	Thailand
Iceland	United States

What kind of companies test with IDFL?

IDFL Facts

IDFL was one of the first laboratories approved and recognized by the International Down & Feather Bureau (IDFB) in Frankfurt, Germany.

IDFL has trained industry people in 50 locations in 10 countries.

IDFL is an approved for the testing of US government purchases.

Facts on Wilford and Mary Jean Lieber

Wilford was born in Basel, Switzerland and began his career as a chemist at Roche Pharmaceuticals. Mary Jean was born in Park City, Utah.

Wilford is a pioneer in down testing. He compiled the first Analytical Testing Manual and co-chaired committees of ABFLO, ASTM and others.

Wilford's test methods are used by ASTM, American Down Association, ABFLO, AAMA, IDFB, and many government agencies around the world.

Mary Jean and Wilford have 5 children and 20 grandchildren.

We test for a wide variety of clients in the industry:

Retailers	30%
Manufacturers	24%
Importers / Exporters	21%
Down Processors	12%
Government Agencies	10%
Other Laboratories	2%
Consumer Groups	1%

Our most interesting client is a woman whose father had purchased an Eiderdown sleeping bag in 1929. After water damage to her home her insurance company wanted some certification that the Eiderdown would, in fact, still be usable. We tested some of the material and found it in remarkably good condition.

Our mission is to provide impartial, independent results to each and every client.

FILL POWER UPDATE

Fill Power continues to be a concern for clients. IDFL has completed a large study of Fill Power and will report results in upcoming newsletters.

Finished Goods vs. Bulk Down.

Fill Power is normally measured before insertion of down into garments or bedding products. It is normal for Fill Power to drop after assembly, shipping and storage.

The current Fill Power procedure attempts to overcome such problems by "conditioning" the down for at least 72 hours.

However, even after the conditioning period, the original Fill Power value is often never reached.

IDFL Fill Power Research.

IDFL will be performing several tests during the next few months to find ways of duplicating the original Fill Power before filling & shipping.

We have found that by rinsing and/or drying a finished product, fill power increases. (This is something a consumer would do during the life of the product.)

We are interested in our clients' experiences with initial vs. finished good fill power. **Please send or fax us any experience or comments about Fill Power.**

Fill Power Methods

IDFL can currently test using the following equipment:

- USA 24" Cylinder
- Lorch Automated System (European Standard)
- Japanese Cylinder (JIS Standard)

In addition, a shorter USA/FTC cylinder is still used by some companies in the USA. Different cylinders are also used in Britain, Scandinavian, and other countries.

IDFL sells the 24" USA Cylinder. Please contact us for current price quotation.

FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER OR OTHER IDFL SERVICES PLEASE CONTACT:

International Down and Feather Testing Laboratory

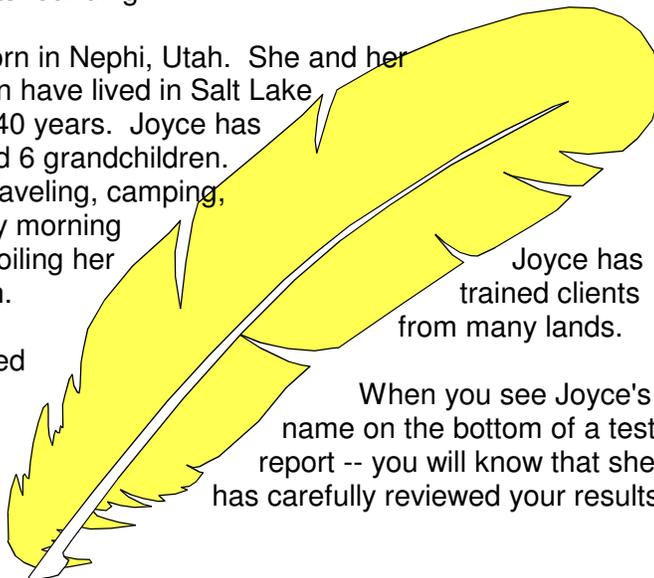
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Employee Spotlight -- Joyce Mikkelson

Joyce Mikkelson is a Senior Analyst at IDFL. She is an 17-year veteran of down and feather testing, having joined the company shortly after its founding.

Joyce was born in Nephi, Utah. She and her husband Allan have lived in Salt Lake City for over 40 years. Joyce has 3 children and 6 grandchildren. She enjoys traveling, camping, cooking, early morning walks and spoiling her grandchildren.

She is qualified to perform almost all of IDFL's tests.



Joyce has trained clients from many lands.

When you see Joyce's name on the bottom of a test report -- you will know that she has carefully reviewed your results.