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# IDFL NEWS

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## FINISHED PRODUCT TESTING

Interest in the testing of finished products has grown recently.

Some of the reasons for this interest in quality control are:

1. Demand for down products has increased.
2. The number of vendors, especially export/import companies, has grown.
3. Buyers are concerned about meeting government regulations for down products.
4. Price/Quality issues are becoming more important in every buying decision.
5. Consumers are becoming more knowledgeable about the types of down and feather fill materials.

### What should be tested in a finished product?

Anywhere from 1 to 10 tests might be requested for a finished product. The decision is based on marketing claims, buyer specifications and government regulations.

### Testing Down and Feathers in Finished Products.

The FTC guidelines require the following tests:

**Content analysis.**

(The % of feathers, down, residue, etc. is regulated.)

**Oxygen Number.**

(This indicates cleanliness.)

**Specie Identification.**

(If goose is listed on label.)

The following tests are needed if the related claim is made about the product.

**Color Separation.** Test if the label indicates white down and more than 5% of material is dark.

**Fill Weight.** The actual fill weight is compared with the label.

**Fill Power.** Fill Power should be tested if a fill or loft power claim is made for the finished product.

**Turbidity.** If the buyer is worried about dust, or claims are made about dust-free products, turbidity should be tested. (see April 1996 IDFL NEWS)

**Odor.** If material has bad odor then an odor test should be requested.

**Insect Damage.** Choose this test if insect damage is suspected or product is returned because of "bugs".

### Fat & Oil, pH, Moisture Content, Wash Loss, & Element Test.

These tests are usually requested by down processors and manufacturers for quality control of bulk down. These may be used by buyers to track down particular problems with fill material.

## FABRIC TESTING

### Additional Tests available from IDFL

Since our last January 1996 Price List the following tests are now available from IDFL.

1. **Finished Product Fill Power Package** (see next page)
2. **Air Permeability Test** (see next page)
3. **Bacteria Testing (required by some European customs)**
4. **Pesticides Testing (required by some clients)**
5. **Raw Sample Wash (before testing).** In some cases washing samples first may give more accurate results.

Several tests are available for quality control of the shell or ticking material.

**Size Check.** The shell is measured to confirm label.

**Threadcount.** Threads per square inch are counted.

**Fiber Identification.** Identification of fabric type (cotton, polyester, etc.) is made.

**Stitching and Fabric Flaws.** Visual qualitative analysis is made on sewn products.

**DOWNPROOFNESS.** The downproofness of fabric is measured in two ways:

**Physical Downproofness.** This test simulates use of comforter, jacket or pillow over extended time. A small pillow is made from fabric to be tested. The pillow is filled

with down and feathers and then tumbled in a chamber with heavy rubber stoppers.

**Air Permeability.** This test measures the airflow through a fabric. A reading of 10 or less is a good indicator that the fabric is downproof.

IDFL has tested material that passes the physical downproof test, but does not pass the air permeability test and vice versa.

Completing both tests will give the most downproof information.

## ADA NEWS

Howard Winslow, long-time executive director of the American Down Association, has retired. Howard and his wife, Ruth, were honored at a dinner held in conjunction with the annual IDFB meeting in Seattle. We wish Howard the very best.

## FINISHED PRODUCT FILL POWER TESTING

Fill Power is normally measured before insertion of down into garments or bedding products. Fill Power often drops after assembly, shipping and storage.

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

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

### New Fill Power Procedure for Finished Products

We have found that by rinsing and/or drying a finished product, the down regains part or all of its original fill power. (The drying and rinsing are procedures that a consumer would do during the life of the product, anyway)

- Three Fill Power results are given
1. Normal
  2. After drying
  3. After rinsing and drying

Please contact IDFL for details about when to request this more expensive test rather than the normal fill power test.

FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT IDFL SERVICES PLEASE CONTACT:

### International Down and Feather Testing Laboratory

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Salt Lake City, UT 84105 USA

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## Employee Spotlights

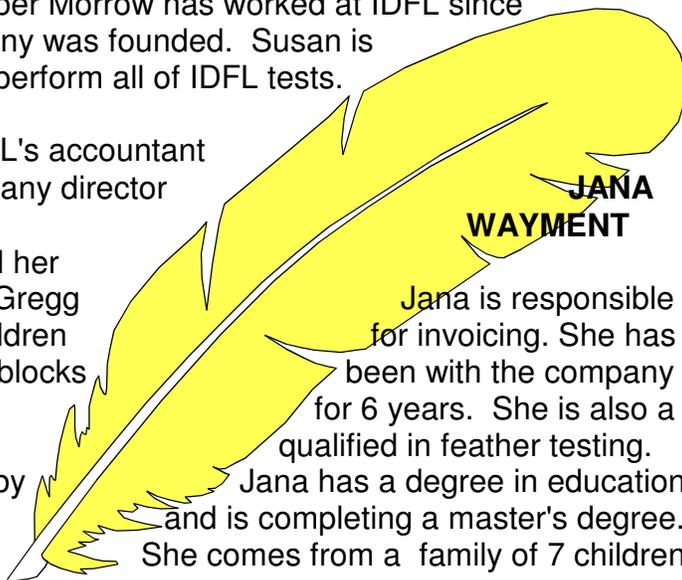
### SUSAN MORROW

Susan Lieber Morrow has worked at IDFL since the company was founded. Susan is trained to perform all of IDFL tests.

She is IDFL's accountant and company director

Susan and her husband, Gregg have 4 children and live 3 blocks from IDFL.

Sue's hobby is down testing.



### JANA WAYMENT

Jana is responsible for invoicing. She has been with the company for 6 years. She is also a qualified in feather testing.

Jana has a degree in education and is completing a master's degree. She comes from a family of 7 children.