



Traceability Standards

Retailers, brand names, and consumers continue to expand their requirements for general traceability in the textile industry.

Since 2008, the traceability of down and feather materials used in textile products has become a very important issue for both the bedding and outerwear industries. Initially, down traceability was a unique European requirement. Now more and more global companies require traceability for all markets.

IDFL has been involved in issues of down and feather origin and traceability for many years. In 2008, IDFL developed standard criteria for traceability audits of down and feathers. Most of the traceability standards today contain these same criteria.

Since 2008, IDFL has accomplished the following:

- Completed 300+ down and feather traceability audits.
- Visited more than 1,000 sites (farms, slaughterhouses, agents, down processors).
- Performed audits according to most industry standards and developed client-specific audit programs for many global retailers and brand names.

IDFL's competitive advantage is our experience in performing audits and listening to client needs. We then match those needs with existing traceability standards or help clients develop custom traceability programs.

The most common traceability standards include:

- EDFA Traceability Standard
- DOWNPASS Standard
- Responsible Down Standard (RDS)
- IDFL client-specific, custom-built traceability programs.

EDFA Traceability

- The European Down and Feather Association (EDFA) requires its members to follow a codex regarding ethical down sourcing. Members must complete an audit of their supply chain every two years.

DOWNPASS

- DOWNPASS is a European-based traceability and quality standard.
- Official European regulations for animal welfare are used to evaluate the supply chain.
- DOWNPASS also monitors filling material and finished product quality for all of the global standards including Japan, China, Australia, Canada, USA, Europe, Korea, Taiwan and others.

- This DOWNPASS standard is modular allowing brand names and retailers many options to custom-build ethical standards for sourcing of raw materials. The DOWNPASS label can be used on outerwear and sleeping bags as well as bulk down materials.
- See website: www.downpass.com

RDS

- The Responsible Down Standard (RDS) was developed by The North Face and gifted to the outdoor industry.
- RDS is managed by Textile Exchange (TE), based in Lubbock, Texas.
- The final version of RDS will be available in 2015.

Other Traceability Standards

- Many retailers and brands have developed strong internal audit systems.
- IDFL can help clients develop customized traceability audit systems.

All of the above standards are viable options. IDFL can help each client analyze the options and choose the best fit. Please contact any IDFL office for more information or email josh.jarman@idfl.com.

Synthetic Fill Testing

IDFL has tested bulk synthetic fillings and synthetic filled products for many years.

We offer a whole series of test programs and packages for finished products and bulk fill material.

Blended poly/down material is also increasing in both outerwear and bedding. IDFL has tested thousands of blended polyester/down material.

See [IDFL Submittal Form – Synthetic & Other Fills](#)

On-site Product Inspection

IDFL offers comprehensive inspection services:

- AQL or other systems for finished products
- Sample Collection of bulk fill material
- Sample Collection of fabric
- Clear-to-ship programs
- Bale Locking
- Container Monitoring
- Sterilization Inspection & Permits

See [IDFL Inspection Services](#)

IDFL Calendar

Dec 5 IDFL Seminar, Chicago

Dec 4-7: CFDA Xiaoshan China Down Fair

2015

Jan 14-17: Heimtex Show, Frankfurt, Germany

Jan 21-24: OR Show, Salt Lake City, USA