



Standard Terminology Relating to Feather-Filled and Down-Filled Products¹

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ε¹ NOTE—Editorial changes were made throughout in February 1993.

1. Scope

1.1 This terminology covers special terms or special meanings used in the feather and down-filled products industry.

1.2 This terminology applies only to feather and down-filled products and their usage as defined herein.

1.3 For the definitions of textile terms, refer to Terminology D 123.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*

D 123 Terminology Relating to Textiles²

D 1518 Test Method for Thermal Transmittance of Textile Material²

D 4522 Performance Specification for Feather-Filled and Down-Filled Products³

D 4524 Test Method for Composition of Plumage³

2.2 *Other Documents:*

Federal Standard 148a-1964—Section 2, Classification and Definitions⁴

A.B.F.L.O.—Quantitative Determination of Feather and Down in Plumage, 1983⁵

Federal Trade Commission—Guides for the Feather and Down Products Industry, 1971⁶

3. Terminology

barb, *n*—in down, the primary structure of plumage emanating from a quill point of a down cluster.

barb, *n*—in feathers, the primary structure of plumage emanating from the quill of a feather.

cleanliness, *n*—for plumage, see **oxygen number**.

down, *n*—the fine, soft plumage of waterfowl, consisting of light, fluffy filaments having at least two barbs attached; that

is, barbs growing from the quill point but without a quill shaft.

down, nestling, *n*—a down not fully developed with a sheath and with soft barbs emanating from the sheath.

DISCUSSION—The barbs of nestling down are soft and fluffy, making it a three-dimensional structure.

down fibers, *n*—detached barbs from down; plumules and detached barbs from the basal end of waterfowl feather quill shafts that are indistinguishable from the barbs of down.

feather fiber, *n*—detached barbs of feathers which are not joined or attached to each other.

feathers, *n*—the outgrowth forming the contour and external covering of fowl.

DISCUSSION—Feathers consist of a central shaft or quill composed of a hollow part near the body and a distal solid part, the rachis, along each side of which is a series of processes, the barbs. The barbs are provided with a fringe of smaller processes, the barbules, which in turn may be equipped with barbicels, or hooklets, the whole composing the vane of the feather. In this standard, the unqualified term “feathers” refers to material that has not been processed in any manner except by washing, dusting, chemical treatment, and sanitizing.

feathers, crushed, *n*—feathers and feather fiber resulting from curling, crushing, or chopping feathers without removing the quill.

feathers, damaged, *n*—feathers that have been broken, damaged by insects, by mildew or rot, or otherwise materially injured.

feathers, landfowl, *n*—See **feathers, nonwaterfowl**.

feathers, nestling, *n*—immature feathers in which the barbs are held together and covered by a sheath.

DISCUSSION—Nestling feathers are two dimensional with stiff barbs which have a brushy appearance.

feathers, nonwaterfowl, *n*—feathers derived from chickens, turkeys, or other landfowl. (Syn. *feathers, landfowl*)

feathers, quill, *n*—feathers which are over 100 mm (4 in.) in length or which have a quill point exceeding 9.5 mm (3/16 in.) in length.

feathers, waterfowl, *n*—feathers from ducks or geese, or both.

filling material, *n*—for feathers or down, the contents of an industry product containing feathers or down of any kind or type, with or without other natural or synthetic materials.

¹ This terminology is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D-13 on Textiles and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D13.61 on Apparel. Current edition approved Sept. 27, 1985. Published November 1985.

² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 07.01.

³ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 07.02.

⁴ Available from the General Services Administration Business Service Center, Washington, DC 20407.

⁵ Available from Association of Bedding and Law Officials, Texas Dept. of Health, 1100 W. 49th St., Austin, TX 78756.

⁶ Available from the Federal Trade Commission, 6th St. and Pennsylvania Avenue N.W., Washington, DC 20580.