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Publication of Revised Standard BS 5335-2:2006 and Related Feather & Down Standards

Publication of Revised Standard BS 5335-2:2006

BS 5335 is the standard for Continental Quilts and exists in two parts.

BS 5335-1:1991 is entitled "Continental quilts. Specification for quilts containing fillings other than feather and/or down." BS 5335-2:1991 was entitled "Continental quilts. Specification for quilts filled with feather and/or down."

The publication of a new European standard (BS EN 13186:2004 Feather and down. Specification for feather and down filled bedding articles), meant that there was then a conflict of interest with the content of BS 5335-2.

However, neither BS EN 13186 nor any other published European Standard for quilts deals with the question of thermal resistance. Therefore, in order to enable manufacturers to continue to test for thermal resistance of feather and down quilts, BS 5335-2 has been revised to give a suitable test method, and reissued as: "BS5335-2:2006 Continental quilts. Determination of thermal resistance for quilts filled with feather and/or down."

There have not in principle been any changes to the tog test method, although some of the wording has been simplified. To take account of measuring and manufacturing variations, the standard now requires that "The thermal resistance of a quilt should fall within the range –0.5 tog to +3.0 tog of the value stated on the label."

It should be noted that there are changes to the labeling requirements. Anyone wishing to claim conformity with BS 5335-2:2006 must also conform to the requirements of BS EN 13186:2004.

BS 5335-1 and BS 5335-2 thermal resistance testing can be carried out in our UK textile laboratory.

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Related Feather & Down Standards

EN 13186:2004 refers to a number of feather and down test methods and standards.

Labelling of Feather and Down Content
EN 1883 describes a sampling procedure; EN 1885 explains feather and down terms and definitions; EN 12131 describes a method to determine the quantitative composition of feather and down: and EN 12934 is the standard defining composition labeling of feather and down filling material. This testing is offered at our Hong Kong laboratory.

Hygiene and Cleanliness Requirements
EN 12935 specifies hygiene and cleanliness requirements.
Oxygen Index Number (measured using EN 1162) gives an indication of the cleanliness by measuring how much oxidizable and soluble material is present on the feathers; and acts as a screening process. If the Oxygen Index Number exceeds a specified limit, then the Microbiological State of the feathers is determined using EN 1884.
Although this microbiological test method is only intended for use on feather and down filling material, the current situation with avian influenza means that it is frequently requested by retailers for testing decorative feathers on accessories. A number of Intertek locations offer microbiological testing, including Hong Kong, Taiwan and India

Oxygen Index Number and Microbiological State form part of the requirement of the French Bedding Decree No. 2000-164. This decree also requires the determination of Turbidity (measured using EN 1164), which indicates the presence of dissolved and undissolved matter in an aqueous extract of the feathers.

Sizing, etc
EN 1167 specifies how to determine size of feather and down filled quilts. EN 13088 defines measurement of product mass and filling mass. These are all labeling requirements for quilts.

Downproof Properties
To assess the primary cover fabric for penetration by the feather filling, two alternative methods can be used. EN 12132-1 is a rubbing method; EN 12132-2 is an impact method

Filling Power
Also known as "massic volume", this is determined using EN 12130. Since it is an optional test in EN 13186, it is rarely requested.

If you have any queries about the information in this article, please contact Linda Gallagher on +44 (0)116 263 9605 or by email at linda.gallagher@intertek.com

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