

# DOWN inc.

## Animal Welfare & Down Traceability Standard



DOWN STANDARD

DOWN inc.  
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# Statement

We take Down & Feather sourcing seriously. At the top of our values are animal welfare, supply chain traceability and corporate responsibility.

Due to our high standards we went the extra mile and obtained an independent third-party supply chain certification from International Down & Feather Laboratory, IDFL, a global leader in filled textile quality and assurance since 1978. IDFL conducted a comprehensive audit to verify that our Down & Feather suppliers are in accordance with the IDFL Down Standard for animal welfare and traceability.

This global standard certifies that our Down & Feather suppliers respect, and are in compliance with, the Five Freedoms of Animal Welfare and confirms: NO live plucking, NO force feeding and that our Down & Feather is only sourced as a byproduct from the food industry.

This is our promise to you,  
- DOWN inc.

# The Five Freedoms of Animal Welfare

## 1. Freedom From Hunger and Thirst

Providing access to fresh water and food to maintain full health and vigor.

## 2. Freedom From Discomfort

Providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.

## 3. Freedom From Pain, Injury, and Disease

Preventing disease through biosecurity, rapid diagnosis and treatment.

## 4. Freedom to Express Normal Behavior

Providing sufficient space, proper facilities and the company of other ducks.

## 5. Freedom From Fear and Distress

Providing proper handling, growing conditions and treatment to prevent suffering.

# Animal Welfare

## Section 1

### 1.1 Animal Wellbeing

- NO Live Plucking - Verify live plucking is not a practice of the facility and there is no suspicion of such.
- NO Force Feeding - Force feeding is strictly prohibited. Verification and statement will be obtained.
- Down & Feathers are sourced only as a byproduct from the food industry.
- Compliance with the Five Freedoms of Animal Welfare (see details of Five Freedoms on page 3).

### 1.2 Shelter & Space

- Verify farm operations comply with local legislation on animal welfare.
- Verify the animals have ample, clean shelter from the elements. The shelters must be safe, clean and well ventilated.
- Verify the shelters are in good repair.
- Verify artificial lighting is monitored, if used.
- Verify the animals have sufficient space to meet their social and behavioral needs.

### 1.3 Health & Safety

- Verify animals are fed sufficient amounts of food to maintain good health.
- Verify animals have access to fresh/clean drinking water.
- Verify the farm schedules regular veterinarian visits and maintains record of such visits.
- Verify the animals handled and cared for by qualified farm personnel.

# Animal Welfare

- Verify the health of the animals is monitored, and any animals in poor condition are treated and/or euthanized humanely.
- Verify measures are in place to ensure the health of the animals, including protection from staff, visitors, themselves, and other animals.

## 1.4 Transportation

- Verify transportation is well-coordinated among suppliers so that the time from loading to unloading is kept to a minimum.
- Verify provisions are in place if transportation time exceeds 8 hours.
- Verify transportation containers are not overloaded and are well-ventilated.
- Verify animals are protected from the elements during transportation.
- Verify unloading procedures do not cause injury to the animal.

# Supply Chain Traceability & Corporate Responsibility

## Section 2

### Supply Chain Traceability

- IDFL verifies the Down & Feather supply chain from farm-level to receipt by DOWN inc.

This may include:

- Traceability Consultation
  - Supplier Verification and Compliance
  - Risk Assessment for Live-Plucking and Force Feeding
  - Animal Welfare Compliance
  - Geographic Origin of Down and Feathers
- IDFL Certified product is tracked through the entire supply chain to ensure total traceability.
  - To verify Down & Feather quality, IDFL laboratory representatives conduct on-site farm visits.
  - Certification is renewed on an ongoing basis.

## Section 3

### Corporate Responsibility

- Stringent selection process to partner with ethical, like-minded businesses.
- Assure all business partners maintain business credentials with local governing bodies.
- Review of workplace environment related to employee safety and welfare.
- Strict policy of compliance with minimum working age requirements.
- Review of business practices related to environmental policy and procedures.