

FY2004 Market Monitoring Test Results

Sample purchase test related to the Household Goods Quality Labeling Law “Futon” (Down Quilts)

(National Institute of Technology and Evaluation)

In FY2004, NITE conducted a sample purchase test of “Futon,” or Japanese quilts, with feather filling to confirm their compliance with the quality labeling regulations for textile goods (hereinafter referred to as “labeling regulations”) under the Household Goods Quality Labeling Law.

NITE purchased 12 sample quilts available in the market for the test. The table below shows the composition of fibers for outer fabrics and the fillings of the sample products as declared. According to the labels, 10 of the samples were made in Japan while 2 were made in China.

Outer fabric labeling	Filling labeling	Number of samples
100% Cotton	95% Down, 5% Feather	1
	93% Down, 7% Feather	3
	92% Down, 8% Feather	2
	90% Down, 10% Feather	5
	85% Down, 15% Feather	1

The labeling regulations require these products to declare the composition of fibers for the outer fabrics and the composition ratio of the fillings.

All sample products were correctly labeled in compliance with the labeling regulations.

The previous sample purchase test of down quilts was conducted in FY2000. Of the 15 sample products, there were 2 products indicating overstated composition ratios for down beyond the allowable range of $\pm 5\%$. No such mislabeling was observed this time.

Reference

- ✧ Under the Household Goods Quality Labeling Law, the quality labeling regulations for textile goods require down quilts to classify the fillings broadly into down and other plumages and label the composition ratios. For other plumages, the labeling regulations require the terms either “feather” or “other plumage” including small feathers, large feathers, damaged feathers, feathers of ground birds, down fibers, feather fibers and trash.
- ✧ To confirm composition ratios, fillings of sample quilts were classified (as shown below) and weighed according to testing methods for feather by Japanese Industrial Standards (JIS) L1903.

Down refers to fine, fluffy feathers from the breast parts of waterfowls such as ducks and geese. They have no shafts and are shaped like dandelion fluffs. They are also referred to as “down balls.” Down is light and excellent at retaining heat and has high elasticity. The quantity and the quality of down greatly influenced the quality of a down quilt.

Small feathers are from waterfowl and measure less than 6.5cm in undamaged parts. They deliver high elasticity when mixed with down.

Large feathers are also from waterfowl and measure 6.5cm or longer. They are not suitable for fillings of down quilts.

Damaged feathers include ripped or smashed feathers and those damaged by insects.

Feathers of ground birds are from chickens, turkeys, etc.

Down fibers and **feather fibers** are barbs, or filaments projecting from the main shaft of a feather, which are isolated and completely separated from shafts of down or feathers.

Trash is other scraps and foreign substances in epithelial structures of a bird’s body surface.