

## EDFA defines Standards

**The EDFA has developed a three-stage system to document the origin of down and feathers.**

“Traceability” means that it is possible to track the logistics chain for products or trading goods. It starts with the producer and extends to the retailer, including acquisition, production and processing through to the sale of the products.

Traceability is becoming increasingly important. Initially, it was primarily used in the food industry, which had to satisfy increasing demands from consumers on the sustainability and traceability of products. In the intervening years, other sectors of industry, which process by-products of food production, have discovered the potential of tracing systems as part of their risk management procedures.



The media and the opinions of others are often of decisive importance, particularly in the case of product characteristics which consumers cannot identify themselves when they make the purchase or afterwards and so have to rely on trust. This also applies to products filled with down and feathers, where direct checks on the origin cannot be made by consumers.

Documented traceability can be a positive signal and the transparency fosters trust with the customers. Apart from a robust documentation procedure, this also includes informative and reliable communication as well as sanctions.

The EDFA has decided to fulfil its responsibility to society with a system that has three modules:

### **The Code**

A code of conduct forms the basis. Here member companies ban live-plucking and inappropriate forms of collecting feathers from live birds. They also undertake not to purchase any down and feathers that have been obtained through cruel methods and they will also make this an integral component of their sales contracts and general terms and conditions of business.

### **The EDFA Traceability Standard**

The second element, the EDFA Traceability Standard, sets out binding guidelines for documentary traceability of filling material consisting of feathers and down.

Here the aim is to document the origin of raw and processed feathers and down from ducks and geese so that it is possible to draw conclusions on how the goods were sourced.

The Standard covers products from EU and EFTA states and material from member states of the Council of Europe or third countries. Suppliers, collectors and breeders must prove that the feathers and down have been collected in compliance with existing legislation.

All those who use the EDFA Traceability Standard undertake to give neutral inspectors access to verify the required documentation and provide all necessary information.

### **The EDFA Audit Standard**

For the final step, the verification of compliance with the EDFA Traceability Standard, independent third parties audit the companies in the feather bedding industry and bedding production, as well as bed feather traders and agencies which sell feather- and down-filled bedding articles.



This third element, the EDFA Audit Standard, specifies how traceability criteria for trading in feathers and down of waterfowl are to be verified.

Operating procedures, lists of suppliers and inventory summaries are only some of the elements which have to be provided by companies.

With the code of conduct combining the Traceability Standard and the Audit Standard, the EDFA has a comprehensive tool for providing the public and consumers with reliable and in-depth information, which will maintain the customers' trust in the industry.