



CALIFORNIA PLUMAGE REGULATIONS

CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Article 5: PLUMAGE REGULATIONS

1192. DEFINITIONS OF TYPES AND KINDS OF PLUMAGE

- a) **"CRUSHED FEATHERS"** shall mean feathers which have been processed by a curling, crushing or chopping machine and includes the fiber resulting from such processing and which has changed the original form of the feather without removing the quill.
- b) **"DAMAGED FEATHERS"** shall mean feathers which have been broken, injured by insects or depreciated from the original value in any manner.
- c) **"DOWN"** shall mean the undercoating of waterfowl, consisting of the light fluffy filaments "barb" growing from one quill point but without any quill shaft.
- d) **"DOWN FIBER"** shall mean the detached barbs from down and plumules and detached barbs from the basal end of the waterfowl quill shaft which are indistinguishable from the barbs of down.
- e) **"FEATHERS"** shall mean the plumage or out-growth forming the contour and external covering of fowl which are whole in structure and which have not been processed in any manner other than dusting and washing.
- f) **"FEATHER FIBER"** shall mean the detached barbs of feathers which are not joined or attached to each other.
- g) **"LANDFOWL"** shall mean plumage derived from chickens and turkeys.
- h) **"PLUMAGE"** shall mean the outer covering of fowl.
- i) **"PLUMULES"** shall mean waterfowl plumage with underdeveloped soft and flaccid quill with barbs indistinguishable from those of down.
- j) **"QUILL FEATHERS"** shall mean feathers exceeding four inches in length or having a quill point exceeding 6/16ths of an inch in length.
- k) **"RESIDUE"** shall mean quill pith, quill fragments, trash or foreign matter.
- l) **"WATERFOWL"** shall mean plumage derived from ducks or geese.
- m) **"DUCK"** shall mean plumage derived from ducks.
- n) **"GOOSE"** shall mean plumage derived from geese.
- o) **"TURKEY"** shall mean plumage derived from turkeys.
- p) **"CHICKEN"** shall mean plumage derived from chickens.
- q)

Note: Authority cited: Sections 19034 and 19089, Business and Professions Code. Sections 19080, 19081, 19088 and 19150. Business and Professions Code.

1193. COMPOSITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

(a) Down Products

Any industry product labeled as "down", "duck down", or "goose down" shall contain a minimum of 75% down and plumules.

The "DOWN" label is a qualified general label and shall include in parentheses the minimum percentage of down in the product. The minimum percentage stated on the label must be at least 75%.

The remainder normally consists of waterfowl feathers and small amounts of other components. If these other components exceed the following maximums, the percentage of such components must be labeled.

Down Fiber	maximum	10%
Feather Fiber	maximum	10%
Chopped, Damaged & Crushed Feathers	maximum	2%
Landfowl Feathers	maximum	2%
Residue	Maximum	2%
Quill Feathers are not permitted		

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(b) Down and Feather Blended Products

These products require qualified general labels that shall include in parentheses the actual percentage of components.

- 1) The term "DOWN AND FEATHERS" may be used to designate any plumage product containing between 50% and 74% down and plumules. The actual percentages must be stated on the label.
- 2) The term "FEATHERS AND DOWN" may be used to designate any plumage product containing between 5% and 49% down and plumules. The actual percentages must be stated on the label.
- 3) The remainder of components in down and feather blended products normally consists of waterfowl feathers or down and small amounts of other components. If these other components exceed the following maximums, the percentage of such components must be labeled.

Down Fiber	maximum	10%
Feather Fiber	maximum	10%
Chopped, Damaged & Crushed Feathers	maximum	2%
Landfowl Feathers	maximum	2%
Residue	maximum	2%

Quill Feathers are not permitted.

(c) Waterfowl Feather Products

Any industry product labeled as "waterfowl feathers," "duck feathers," or "goose feathers" shall contain a minimum of 80% waterfowl feathers.

The remainder normally consists of waterfowl feathers and small amounts of other components. If these other components exceed the following maximums, the percentage of such components must be labeled.

Down	maximum	20%
Down Fiber	maximum	10%
Chopped, Damaged & Crushed Feathers	maximum	7%
Feather Fiber	maximum	5%
Landfowl Feathers	maximum	5%
Residue	maximum	2%

Quill Feathers are not permitted.

(d) Other Plumage Products

Plumage products which do not meet requirements for any of the above categories must be labeled accurately with each component listed separately.

(e) Percentage Claims

A plumage product should not be designated as "100% Down," "All Down," "Pure Down," or by other similar terms unless it, in fact, contains 100% down.

(f) Tolerances

No tolerance is allowed for the minimum percentage of down as stated in the above listed categories.

(g) Species

The species of waterfowl plumage need not be designated, but when designated, the product shall contain a minimum of 90% of such plumage.

(h) Cleanliness

All plumage products must have an oxygen number not exceeding 20 grams of oxygen per 100, 000 grams of sample.

(i) Adulteration

The maximum content for certain components listed above are not to be construed to permit intentional adulteration of plumage products.