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**FEATHER AND DOWN - TERMS AND  
DEFINITIONS**

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EUROPEAN STANDARD

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Descriptors: stuffings, feathers, lining processes, vocabulary

English version

## Feather and down - Terms and definitions

Plumes et duvets - Termes et définitions

Federn und Daunen - Benennungen und Definitionen

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 23 March 1998.

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## **Foreword**

This European Standard has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 222 "Feather and down as filling material for any article, as well as finished articles filled with feather and down", the secretariat of which is held by UNI.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by October 1998, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by month of October 1998.

Annex A is informative.

According to the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

## **1 Scope**

This European standard defines the principal terms used in the field of feather and down.

## **2 Terms and definitions concerning the structure**

### **2.1 Plumage**

All elements (quill feathers, feathers, down, plumule) of a plumage from different kinds of waterfowl and landfowl.

### **2.2 Quill feather**

Stiff, coarse, wing and tail plumage. It has a longer and stiffer vane (2.11) than a feather (2.3.1).

### **2.3 Feather**

#### **2.3.1 Feather (general)**

Plumage (2.1) without quill feathers (2.2).

#### **2.3.2 Feather (specific) (see Figure 1)**

Horny integument of fowls. It has a shorter and softer vane (2.11) than quill feather (2.2) and, unlike plumules (2.16), a well developed quill (2.7).

#### **2.4 Neck feather (see Figure 2)**

Smallest feathers from the neck and head area, some with very sharp quill points.

#### **2.5 Nestling feather (pin feather) (see Figure 6)**

Feather (2.3.1) not fully developed, having no distinguishable quill (2.7) but with relatively short coarse barbs (2.19).

#### **2.6 Flat feather**

Feather (2.3.1) with straight vane (2.11).

#### **2.7 Quill (see Figure 1)**

Axial part of quill feather (2.2) and feathers (2.3.1). It is formed by the quill point (2.9) and the quill shaft (2.8).

#### **2.8 Quill shaft (see Figure 1 and Figure 7)**

Part of the quill (2.7) which carries the vane (2.11).

#### **2.9 Quill point (see Figure 1 and Figure 7)**

Part of the quill (2.7) inserted in the skin and partially protruding from it.

### **2.10 After shaft (see Figure 8)**

Feather (2.3.1) that branches off from the same quill point (2.9) of a normal feather and that is smaller than this one; it is typical of chickens and turkeys.

### **2.11 Vane (see Figure 7)**

The whole of feather barbs (2.19) intimately connected among them by means of barbules (2.21); it branches off from the quill shaft (2.8).

NOTE: Present in quill feather (2.2) and feathers (2.3.1) but absent in down (2.12).

### **2.12 Down (see Figure 4)**

Plumage forming the undercoating of waterfowl, consisting of clusters of light, fluffy filaments (e.g. down and plumule barbs 2.20) growing from one scantily sketched down core (2.13) but without any quill shaft (2.8) or vane (2.11).

NOTE: Conventionally at least two barbs connected at one point are considered as down.

### **2.13 Down core**

Centre growth point in a cluster of down.

### **2.14 Nestling down (see Figure 5)**

Down (2.12) not fully developed, with barbules (2.21) emanating from the basal end covered with a sheath (2.15) and without any quill (2.7).

### **2.15 Sheath (see Figure 5)**

Covering at the basal end of nestling down (2.14) which holds the barbules (2.21) together.

### **2.16 Plumule (see Figure 3)**

Downy three-dimensional waterfowl plumage produced in the early weeks of life with underdeveloped soft and flaccid quill (2.7) and feather barbs (2.19) indistinguishable from the barbs of down.

NOTE: It is conventionally recorded as down.

### **2.17 Feather fibre**

Feather barb (2.19) detached from the quill shaft (2.8).

### **2.18 Down fibre**

Down barb (2.20) or plumule barb (2.20) detached respectively from the down core (2.13) or the quill shaft (2.8).

### **2.19 Feather barb (see Figure 7)**

Main structure of the vane (2.11), directly growing from the quill shaft (2.8) and bearing barbules (2.21), with prongs (2.22), thorns (2.23) and clamp teeth (2.24). It has normally no nodes (2.25).

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