WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of testing a sleep support member, the method comprising:

identifying the sleep support member;

determining a tested comfort/support value for the identified sleep support member before the identified sleep support member is provided to a customer; and

determining whether the tested comfort/support value is within a predetermined tolerance level of a goal comfort/support value for the identified sleep support member,

wherein the determining a tested comfort/support value for the identified sleep support member is performed while the identified sleep support member is in the manufacturing line.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the sleep support member comprises at least one of a mattress and a box spring.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the goal comfort/support value comprises at least one goal Indention/Load/Deflection ("ILD") curve, and wherein the tested comfort/support value is determined by an ILD test.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the goal comfort/support value comprises a plurality of goal ILD curves, and wherein each of the plurality of goal ILD curves is associated with a different location on the sleep support member.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the goal comfort/support value is retrieved from a memory.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the memory includes a plurality of other goal comfort/support values respectively associated with a plurality of other sleep support members, and

wherein the method further comprises, if it is determined that the tested comfort/support value is not within the predetermined tolerance level of the goal comfort/support value for the identified sleep support member, then searching the plurality of other goal comfort/support values to determine if the tested comfort/support value is within a predetermined tolerance level of another of the goal comfort/support values.

7. The method of claim 1 , wherein the identifying the sleep support member comprises reading a bar code provided on the sleep support member.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the identifying the sleep support member comprises reading an RFID provided on or in the sleep support member.

~~9. The method of claim 1, wherein the determining a tested comfort/support value for the identified sleep support member is performed while the identified sleep support member is in the manufacturing line.~~

~~10~~9. The method of claim 1, wherein the determining a tested comfort/support value for the identified sleep support member comprises:

applying a load to the sleep support member at a location using a contact surface; and

measuring a deflection of the sleep support member caused by the applied load.

~~11~~10. The method of claim ~~10~~9, further comprising:

applying a plurality of loads to the sleep support member at the location using the contact surface; and

measuring a plurality of corresponding deflections of the sleep support member caused by the applied loads.

121. The method of claim 1, further comprising determining recovery characteristics of the sleep support member.

1312. The method of claim 112, wherein the determining recovery characteristics of the sleep support member comprises:

applying a load to the sleep support member at a location using a contact surface; and

measuring a plurality of deflections of the sleep support member caused by the applied load as the applied load is removed from the sleep support member.

1413. An apparatus for testing a sleep support member, the apparatus comprising:

an identification unit configured to identify the sleep support member;

a comfort/support testing unit configured to determine a tested comfort/support value for the identified sleep support member before the identified sleep support member is provided to a customer; and

an analysis unit configured to determine whether the tested comfort/support value is within a predetermined tolerance level of a goal comfort/support value for the identified sleep support member,

wherein the analysis unit is configured to determine whether the tested comfort/support value is within a predetermined tolerance level of a goal comfort/support value for the identified sleep support member while the identified sleep support member is in the manufacturing line.

1514. The apparatus of claim 1413, wherein the sleep support member comprises at least one of a mattress and a box spring.

1615. The apparatus of claim 1413, wherein the goal comfort/support value comprises at least one goal Indention/Load/Deflection ("ILD") curve, and

wherein the tested comfort/support value is determined by an ILD test.

~~17~~16. The apparatus of claim ~~16~~15, wherein the goal comfort/support value comprises a plurality of goal ILD curves, and wherein each of the plurality of goal ILD curves is associated with a different location on the sleep support member.

~~18~~17. The apparatus of claim ~~14~~13, further comprising a memory; wherein the goal comfort/support value is retrieved from the memory.

~~19~~18. The apparatus of claim ~~18~~17, wherein the memory includes a plurality of other goal comfort/support values respectively associated with a plurality of other sleep support members, and

wherein the analysis unit is configured such that, if it is determined that the tested comfort/support value is not within the predetermined tolerance level of the goal comfort/support value for the identified sleep support member, then the analysis unit searches the plurality of other goal comfort/support values to determine if the tested comfort/support value is within a predetermined tolerance level of another of the goal comfort/support values.

~~20~~19. The apparatus of claim ~~14~~13, wherein the identification unit is configured to identify the sleep support member using a bar code provided on the sleep support member.

~~21~~20. The apparatus of claim ~~14~~13, wherein the identification unit is configured to identify the sleep support member using an RFID provided on or in the sleep support member.

~~22~~21. The apparatus of claim ~~14~~13, wherein the sleep support member comprises an identifier; and

wherein the identifier comprises information relating to at least one of goal specifications of the sleep support member, goal ILD curves of the sleep support member, goal tolerance levels of the sleep support member, a type of the sleep support member, a location where the sleep support member was manufactured, a date of manufacture of the sleep support member, manufacturing materials of the sleep support member, and customer information.

232. The apparatus of claim 2221, wherein the identifier comprises reference information relating to a database.

~~24. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the analysis unit is configured to determine whether the tested comfort/support value is within a predetermined tolerance level of a goal comfort/support value for the identified sleep support member while the identified sleep support member is in the manufacturing line~~.

2523. The apparatus of claim 1413, wherein the comfort/support testing unit comprises:

a contact surface configured to apply a load to the sleep support member at a testing location; and

a measurement unit configured to measure a deflection of the sleep support member caused by the applied load at the testing location.

2624. The apparatus of claim 2523, wherein the contact surface is configured to apply a plurality of loads to the sleep support member at the testing location; and

wherein the measurement unit is configured to measure a plurality of corresponding deflections of the sleep support member caused by respective applied loads.

~~27~~25. The apparatus of claim ~~14~~13, wherein the comfort/support testing unit is configured to determine recovery characteristics of the sleep support member.

~~28~~26. The apparatus of claim ~~27~~25, wherein the comfort/support testing unit comprises:

a contact surface configured to apply a load to the sleep support member at a testing location; and

a recovery characteristics measurement unit configured to measure a plurality of deflections of the sleep support member caused by the applied load as the applied load is removed from the sleep support member.

~~29~~27. The method of claim 1, further comprising communicating the tested comfort/support value to a consumer.

~~30~~28. The apparatus of claim ~~14~~13, further comprising a communication unit configured to communicate the tested comfort/support value to a consumer.

~~31~~29. The method of claim ~~11~~10, further comprising: determining a plurality of tested comfort/support values for the identified sleep support member before the identified sleep support member is provided to the customer; and

determining whether the tested comfort/support values are within predetermined tolerance levels of goal comfort/support values for the identified sleep support member.

~~32~~30. The method of claim ~~31~~29, wherein each of the plurality of tested comfort/support values for the identified sleep support member is associated with a different location on the sleep support member.

~~33~~31. The method of claim ~~31~~29, wherein a first of the plurality of tested comfort/support values for the identified sleep support member is associated with a location on a first side of the sleep support member, and

wherein a second of the plurality of tested comfort/support values for the identified sleep support member is associated with a location on a second side of the sleep support member, opposite to said first side.

~~34~~32. The method of claim ~~33~~31, wherein the first of the plurality of tested comfort/support values and the second of the plurality of tested comfort/support values are determined simultaneously.

~~35~~33. The apparatus of claim ~~14~~13, wherein the comfort/support testing unit is configured to determine a plurality of tested comfort/support values for the identified sleep support member before the sleep support member is provided to customer, and

wherein the analysis unit is configured to determine whether the tested comfort/support values are within predetermined tolerance levels of goal comfort/support values for the identified sleep support member.

~~36~~34. The apparatus of claim ~~35~~33, wherein the comfort/support testing unit is configured such that each of the plurality of tested comfort/support values for the identified sleep support member is associated with a different location on the sleep support member.

3~~7~~5. The apparatus of claim ~~35~~33, wherein the comfort/support testing unit is configured such that a first of the plurality of tested comfort/support values for the identified sleep support member is associated with a location on a first side of the sleep support member; and

wherein the comfort/support testing unit is configured such that a second of the plurality of tested comfort/support values for the identified sleep support member is associated with a location on a second side of the sleep support member, opposite to said first side.

~~38~~36. The apparatus of claim ~~37~~35, wherein the comfort/support testing unit is configured to determine the first of the plurality of tested comfort/support values and the second of the plurality of tested comfort/support values simultaneously.

~~39~~37. The method of ~~claim 9~~claim 1, wherein the method is performed for substantially all sleep support members that are manufactured in the manufacturing line.

~~40~~38. The apparatus of claim ~~14~~13, wherein the identification unit is configured to identify substantially all sleep support members that are manufactured in a manufacturing line;

wherein the comfort/support testing unit is configured to determine a tested comfort/support value for each of the identified sleep support members before each of the identified sleep support members are provided to a respective customer; and

wherein the analysis unit is configured to determine whether each of the tested comfort/support values is within a predetermined tolerance level of a goal comfort/support value for each of the respective identified sleep support members.

~~41~~39. A method of testing a sleep support member, the method comprising:

identifying the sleep support member;

determining a tested comfort/support value for the identified sleep support member while the identified sleep support member is in the manufacturing line; and

determining whether the tested comfort/support value is within a predetermined tolerance level of a goal comfort/support value for the identified sleep support member;

wherein the goal comfort/support value comprises at least one goal Indention/Load/Deflection ("ILD") curve.

~~42~~40. The method of claim ~~41~~39, wherein the goal comfort/support value comprises a plurality of goal ILD curves, and wherein each of the plurality of goal ILD curves is associated with a different location on the sleep support member.

~~43~~41. The method of claim ~~44~~39, further comprising determining recovery characteristics of the sleep support member.

442. A method of testing a sleep support member, the method comprising:

identifying the sleep support member;

determining a tested comfort/support value for the identified sleep support member before the identified sleep support member is provided to a customer; and

determining whether the tested comfort/support value is within a predetermined tolerance level of a goal comfort/support value for the identified sleep support member,

wherein the goal comfort/support value is retrieved from a memory.

~~45~~3. An apparatus for testing a sleep support member, the apparatus comprising:

an identification unit configured to identify the sleep support member;

a comfort/support testing unit configured to determine a tested comfort/support value for the identified sleep support member before the identified sleep support member is provided to a customer;

an analysis unit configured to determine whether the tested comfort/support value is within a predetermined tolerance level of a goal comfort/support value for the identified sleep support member; and

a memory,

wherein the goal comfort/support value is retrieved from the memory.

464. The method of claim 1, wherein the determining a tested comfort/support value for the identified sleep support member is performed only while the identified sleep support member is in the manufacturing line.