

PROFFI310 (SQA Unit Code - FE47 04) Assemble loose covers



Overview

This standard addresses the competence required to assemble and finish loose covers. This involves:

- 1 preparing sewing equipment and components
- 2 sewing seams and assembling covers
- 3 attaching ancillary items and finishing covers
- 4 working in ways which maintain your own and others' safety

There is also a scope statement which defines the coverage of this standard.

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Performance criteria

Prepare sewing equipment and components

You must be able to:

- P1 organise the **materials**, tools and **equipment** you will need so that you can work effectively and keep your work area tidy
- P2 check that you have the required **work specification** and that it is clear and complete
- P3 obtain the **fabric** and check that it is free from defects and flaws and conforms to the **specification**
- P4 check that the **sewing equipment** to be used is in a safe and functional condition and clean of grease and other sources of potential damage to **fabric**
- P5 set up the **equipment** with the correct workholding devices and threads to produce the required outcomes
- P6 deal promptly with any **problems** that arise, reporting any which you cannot solve
- P7 correctly sort, identify and sequence the **components** ready for assembly
- P8 correctly skive or notch any **components** that need it, so that the seams will be of the required quality
- P9 carry out test sews, making adjustments as required to sort any deviations from the **specification**
- P10 follow safe working procedures when setting up and operating powered **equipment**
- P11 complete the preparations within the required time
- P12 complete required records so that they are accurate and legible

Sew seams and assemble loose covers

You must be able to:

- P13 check that all **components** are in place and correctly marked for sewing before beginning work
- P14 check **components** and **ancillary items** against the **specification**, replacing any that are unacceptable
- P15 accurately align and sew **components** and **ancillary items** in the correct sequence
- P16 sew seams that are even and of the required type and tension
- P17 form and complete pleats and quilting accurately according to the **specification**
- P18 deal promptly and effectively with any **recoverable faults** that occur
- P19 follow safe working procedures when using powered **sewing equipment**
- P20 keep your work area tidy and protect the **fabric** from damage while it is being worked on
- P21 accurately mark, bundle and arrange sewn work so that it is ready for passing on to the next stage
- P22 complete and pass on the work within the required time
- P23 complete required records so that they are accurate and legible

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Knowledge and understanding

Prepare sewing equipment and components

You need to know and understand:

- K1 the meaning of terms used in technical specifications for soft furnishings
- K2 the functions and uses of the different types of sewing equipment used in soft furnishings
- K3 the functions and uses of the different types of foot and needle in use
- K4 how to handle powered tools safely in ways that protect yourself and others from risk
- K5 the implications for your work of the HASAWA and COSHH Regulations, including where to find out about relevant risk assessment details and risk control strategies that have been set by your organisation
- K6 how to set out a work area for efficient working and the health and safety issues that can arise if a work area is disorganised and untidy
- K7 what the consequences are of lubricants and debris being left on work surfaces, tools and equipment
- K8 the types of equipment fault that can occur and how to recognise and deal with them
- K9 when and why machine, needle, foot and spool checks are carried out
- K10 the characteristics of different types of fabrics and how these affect the preparations that are needed before sewing and the threads to be used
- K11 when and why to carry out test sews, the types of faults they can show up and what adjustments are needed to deal with them
- K12 types of fabric, template and lay faults which occur, how they are identified and how they can be dealt with
- K13 what information should be recorded and why this is important
- K14 how to dispose of waste in accordance with current legislation

You need to know and understand:

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- K15 the handling and sewing characteristics of different types of materials used as loose covers
- K16 the meaning of terms used in technical specifications for soft furnishings
- K17 why it is necessary to sew components and ancillary items in the correct sequence and the consequences of not doing so
- K18 the types of seam and finishing stitching methods that are used in soft furnishings, the purpose of each and how to form them
- K19 the sorts of problems that can occur during sewing and how to deal with them
- K20 the types of pleating and quilting that are used in soft furnishings, the purpose of each and how to form them
- K21 how to handle powered tools safely in ways that protect yourself and others from risk
- K22 the implications for your work of the HASAWA and COSHH Regulations, including where to find out about relevant risk assessment details and risk control strategies that have been set by your organisation
- K23 the health and safety issues that can arise if a work area is disorganised

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and untidy

K24 why it is important to be accurate in marking sewn work

K25 what information should be recorded and why this is important

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Additional Information

Scope

Item to be upholstered

The items to be covered could include any of the following;

modern furniture such as an armchair or settee

contract furniture such as a long seating unit, a curved/angled seating unit or chair

office furniture such as a chair or reception seating

Fabric and materials

The different forms of material used for loose covers. These include a range of different fabrics, including materials that require careful handling if sewing is to result in components which are properly aligned e.g. patterned/striped fabrics, plain/pile, vinyl, stretch fabrics and flat weave fabrics, as well as natural hide. In addition, materials include finishing materials used in edgings, trimmings, piping and zips.

Upholstery components

The pieces of material from which a loose cover is fashioned by sewing and other fixing methods. They may be simple or complex, symmetrical or asymmetrical.

Sewing equipment

Sewing equipment could include lockstitch machines, long arm machines, twin needle machines, overlocking machines and multi-needle machines.

Work specification

The set of instructions which describe the work to be carried out, including details of the materials to be used including fabric size, colour, and type. The specification will also detail the quality of outcome to be achieved and the time within which it must be completed. In the context of this unit, the outcome quality to be achieved requires that the following criteria be met:

- 1 seam stitch length and tensioning
- 2 seam type (e.g. *straight sews*, *shaped sews*) is correct
- 3 shape and size measurements are within +/- 3mm tolerance
- 4 pleating/quilting dimensions are to within +/- 5mm tolerance
- 5 finishing stitching (top stitching/saddle stitching) is correctly placed and formed to within +/- 3mm tolerance

Problems

In relation to the preparation aspect, problems will be in relation to the clarity of the specification, the availability of equipment, threads and other resources and the functioning and cleanliness of equipment and its parts e.g. workholding devices, needles etc.

In relation to the sewing process, problems will be to do with faults in the seams, rucking of the fabric, damage to fabric etc. Some of these faults may be recoverable and able to be sorted by re-working, others will be more serious. The person carrying out this role is responsible for rectifying these sorts of problems, reporting them when they cannot be dealt with quickly, safely and readily.

Ancillary items

Piping, labels and zips.

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Suite Furniture; Furnishings and Interiors

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