

# PROSF256 (SQA Unit Code - FE4N 04) Cut fabrics and components for use in soft furnishings



---

## Overview

This standard addresses the competence required to cut fabrics used in soft furnishings. This involves:

- 1 cutting fabric components
- 2 marking and sorting components
- 3 working in ways which maintain your own and others' safety

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

# PROSF256 (SQA Unit Code - FE4N 04)

## Cut fabrics and components for use in soft furnishings

---

### Performance criteria

#### Cut fabrics

*You must be able to:*

- P1 plan the marking out and cutting of the **material** so as to minimise waste and take account of **material** type, width and pile
- P2 take account of **material** pattern, type, width and pile when marking out and cutting
- P3 correctly align marked **components** on the **material**, taking account of pattern matching when appropriate
- P4 make sure that marked **components** will be free of major flaws and that any minor defects will not be visible when used
- P5 mark out **components** accurately, clearly and to within acceptable tolerance limits
- P6 cut the **components** cleanly and accurately to within the given size and shape tolerances
- P7 deal promptly and effectively with any **problems** that occur
- P8 follow **safe** working procedures when:
- P9 using sharp **tools** and items of **equipment**;
- P10 using powered **equipment**;
- P11 keep your work area tidy and protect the **material** from damage while it is being worked on
- P12 store **cutting tools and equipment** in a designated safe location and position

*You must be able to:*

#### Mark and prepare fabric components

- P13 sort out, mark the cut **components** using the designated identification system
- P14 remove **templates and lays** and check that they are free from damage before storing them over for future use
- P15 prepare the **components** according to the **specification** and confirm that they are ready for the next stage in the process
- P16 protect the **components** from damage while they are being handled and passed on to the next stage
- P17 sort out and move any left over **material** and wastes into the designated locations according to what is to happen to them
- P18 deal promptly and effectively with any damaged **templates, lays** and other **problems**
- P19 pass the **components** over to the next stage in the process in the required time
- P20 complete required records so that they are accurate and legible

# PROSF256 (SQA Unit Code - FE4N 04)

## Cut fabrics and components for use in soft furnishings

---

### Knowledge and understanding

*You need to know and understand:*

#### Cut fabrics

- K1 the handling and cutting characteristics of different types of materials used soft furnishings
- K2 the meaning of terms used in technical specifications for soft furnishings
- K3 why it is necessary to maintain cut components within the given tolerances
- K4 what wastage levels apply and why it is important to minimise waste
- K5 the sorts of problems that can occur during marking out and cutting materials and how to deal with them
- K6 when and why it is important to match the pattern
- K7 the functions and uses of the different types of tools and equipment that are used in cutting material
- K8 how to handle sharp and powered tools safely in ways that protect yourself and others from risk
- K9 what your personal responsibilities are with regard to health and safety legislation
- K10 the health and safety issues that can arise if a work area is disorganised and untidy
- K11 what your personal limitations are in respect of the PUWER regulations 1998

#### Mark and prepare fabric components

*You need to know and understand:*

- K12 which markers it is most appropriate to use for different types of material
- K13 how and why components are marked and what sorts of systems are used
- K14 how to determine when templates and lays are beyond use and how to make repairs to those that can be repaired
- K15 how to interpret work specifications so as to identify the preparations needed
- K16 why it is important to protect components from damage
- K17 how to handle and store left over materials so as to make the best use of them
- K18 what your personal responsibilities are with regard to health and safety
- K19 waste handling arrangements in the workplace
- K20 what information should be recorded and why this is important

# PROSF256 (SQA Unit Code - FE4N 04)

## Cut fabrics and components for use in soft furnishings

---

### Additional Information

#### Scope

#### Components

The pieces of material from which a table treatment is fashioned by sewing and other fixing methods. Examples of sewing method could include straight, shaped sews and seams involving simple pleating.

#### Fabrics

The different forms of material used for making table treatments. These include a range of different fabric, including materials that require careful handling if an accurate cut is to be achieved and components properly aligned e.g. patterned/striped fabrics with a minimum pattern repeat of 25cm, plain and patterned pile, flat weave fabrics.

#### Fixing methods

This unit covers the use of hand sewing, including slip stitch, ladder stitch and hemming stitch. Machine sewing including flat, french and flat fell seams.

#### Problems

In relation to the cutting of fabrics, these will be to do with flaws, distortions and colour/pattern variations in the fabric, inaccurate measurements and mis-alignments. In relation to the assembly and sewing process, these will be to do with slipping, fraying, inaccuracies, poor seam quality and equipment faults. The person carrying out this role is responsible for rectifying these types of problems in ways which ensure that the quality of the outcome is not compromised.

#### Sewing

This unit covers both machine and hand sewing.

#### 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 material cutting and shaping accuracy is to within +/- 5mm, for both single-lay and multi-lay cutting
- 2 component marking is accurate to within +/- 3mm

#### Trimmings and Decorative Finishes

This unit covers the assembly and/or fixing of piping, braids, fringes, cords, flange cords and braids, applied and inserted into seams, hand and machine sewn. This unit also includes the use of other decorative detailing e.g. pleating, gathering, appliqué, tucks, smocking.

#### Tools and equipment

This unit covers the use of cutting, measuring and marking equipment and both hand sewing equipment including scissors, pins, needles, thread, tailor's chalk, and sewing machines.

## PROSF256 (SQA Unit Code - FE4N 04)

### Cut fabrics and components for use in soft furnishings

---

**Developed by** Proskills

---

**Version number** 1

---

**Date approved** February 2010

---

**Indicative review date** April 2015

---

**Validity** Current

---

**Status** Original

---

**Originating organisation** Proskills

---

**Original URN** 256

---

**Relevant occupations** Furniture maker and other craft woodworkers; Upholsterers;

---

**Suite** Soft Furnishings

---

**Key words** Contemporary Furniture Making; Traditional; Modern Upholstery; Traditional Upholstery; Soft Furnishing; Cutting; Sewing; Hand Finishing