PROFFI311 (SQA Unit Code - FE52 04)
Fit and finish top covers

Overview

This standard addresses the competence required to apply and fit top covers in upholstery. This involves:

1 measuring and cutting fabric to fit an item of furniture
2 applying and fitting the top cover to the item of furniture to include either fluting or buttoning
3 trimming and finishing upholstery to specification
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 a cutting plan for a top cover
You must be able to:	P1 take accurate and complete measurements of the shape and dimensions of the **item to be upholstered** P2 record the measurements clearly and accurately P3 plan the cutting of the **fabric** so as to minimise waste and take account of the design characteristics and handling implications of the **fabric** to be used P4 measure and mark out and cut the **components** accurately, clearly and to within acceptable tolerance limits for the **fabric** being used P5 ensure **fabric** placement and alignment is appropriate for the type and number of **components** required and the **fabric** characteristics P6 deal promptly and effectively with any **problems** that occur P7 follow safe working procedures when using sharp **tools** and items of **equipment** P8 protect the **fabric** from damage while it is being worked on P9 make sure that the **components** are clearly and accurately marked for correct assembly and fitting
	Apply and fit a top cover
You must be able to:	P10 accurately place the **components** in their previous fitting position P11 make sure that **components** are correctly orientated and aligned to meet **fabric**, pattern and design requirements P12 attach the **components** in an efficient sequence, position and form pleats, darts and/or collars to ensure that the finished **component** will lie correctly P13 use **fixing methods** which are appropriate to the type of **component** P14 attach the **components** securely and to the required shape, contour lines, tension and finish P15 locate, fit and secure **buttons** accurately in their correct positions P16 make sure that the bottom cloth is accurately, neatly and firmly secured P17 check and confirm that there are no protruding or sharp fixings on the finished item P18 check and confirm that the visual appearance of the upholstered item meets the **specification** P19 deal effectively with any **problems** which may arise P20 follow safe working practices when using fixing **tools and equipment**
	Trim and finish upholstery
You must be able to:	P21 accurately position **trimmings** to give the required visual appearance P22 securely attach the **trimmings** using **methods** which will give the required durability and appearance P23 make sure that there are no loose ends or visible stitchings P24 apply decorative nails and studs in the required pattern and spacing P25 follow an efficient sequence when applying decorative nails and studs

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P26	make sure that castors and gliders are secured using fixings which will give the required strength
P27	make sure that castors and gliders are in the correct positions to give the required stability and range of movement
P28	deal effectively with any **problems** which may arise
P29	work in ways which protect yourself and others from risk of injury

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

Prepare a cutting plan for a top cover

K1 the handling and cutting characteristics of different types of materials used as upholstery covers and bottom cloths
K2 the meaning of terms used in technical specifications for upholstery
K3 how many measurements and of which dimensions are needed to ensure accurate cutting and fitting in respect of different types of component
K4 which markers are most appropriate to use for different types of upholstery fabric
K5 what cutting tolerances are appropriate for different types of component and in what ways this may be influenced by fabric type
K6 what the implications are of not properly placing and aligning fabric before cutting it
K7 why it is important to minimise waste
K8 how to take account of design characteristics such as pattern repeats and pile direction in planning cutting
K9 the sorts of problems that can occur during marking out and cutting fabric and how to deal with them
K10 the functions and uses of the different types of measuring and marking and cutting tools
K11 the implications for your work of the HASAWA and COSHH Regulations, including where to find out about relevant risk assessment details and control methods that have been set by your organisation
K12 what steps should be taken to protect fabric from damage
K13 the implications for your work of the current Furnishings Regulations
K14 how to dispose of waste in accordance with current legislation

You need to know and understand:

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K15 the handling characteristics of different fabrics and how this can affect their behaviour during positioning and fixing
K16 why the sequence in which components are attached is important to the efficiency of the process and the quality of the outcome achieved
K17 when and why pleats, darts and collars may be formed on upholstery components
K18 when and why sorts of fixing methods are used
K19 how buttons are attached and the different uses of float and deep-buttoning methods
K20 why it is important to ensure that the bottom cover is accurately, neatly and firmly secured
K21 what sort of problems can arise and how to deal with them
K22 the implications for your work of the HASAWA and COSHH Regulations, including where to find out about relevant risk assessment details and

control methods that have been set by your organisation

K23 when and why to carry out checks to confirm that there are no sharp or protruding fixings

K24 the implications for your work of the current Furnishings Regulations

K25 how to dispose of waste in accordance with current legislation

You need to know and understand:

Trim and finish upholstery

K26 what sorts of trimmings and finishings are used in traditional upholstery and why

K27 when and why different fixing methods are used for traditional upholstery trimmings

K28 how to make sure that patterns and spacing of decorative nails are accurate and what role the sequence of application plays in that

K29 what methods of fixing will give castors and gliders the appropriate strength for their purpose

K30 the principles which underlie the positioning of castors and gliders for stability and movement

K31 what sort of problems can arise and how to deal with them

K32 the implications for your work of the HASAWA and COSHH Regulations, including where to find out about relevant risk assessment details and control methods that have been set by your organisation

K33 the implications for your work of the current Furnishings Regulations

K34 how to dispose of waste in accordance with current legislation

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Additional Information

Scope

Buttoning & Fluting

Fluting, float and deep-buttoning are all covered by this unit.

Components

The pieces of material from which an upholstery cover is fashioned by sewing and other fixing methods; they may be simple or complex, symmetrical or asymmetrical.

Fabric/materials

The different forms of materials used for upholstery covers. These include a range of different fabrics, 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, stretch fabrics and flat weave fabrics, as well as natural hide. In addition, materials are used for the covering of buttons.

Fixing methods

This unit covers the use of hand sewing, stapling and tacking methods of fixing upholstery components in place.

Item to be upholstered

The items to be upholstered include seats, inside and outside arms, inside and outside backs, base finishes, linings, facings, borders and cushions.

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 machine 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. Typically, hand sewing would be used in relation to the under-edge of seats or backs, arm scrolls, buttoning and fluting.

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 finishings

This unit covers the assembly of flange cord, ruche, piping and fastenings into components.

Tools and equipment

This unit covers the use of cutting equipment including knives, shears and

scalpels, measuring and marking equipment and both hand sewing equipment and sewing machines.

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