

# SKSHHT3 - SQA Unit Code H9EL 04

## Weaving Harris Tweed using a handloom



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### Overview

This standard is for Harris Tweed weavers who weave Harris Tweed fabric product according to the pattern and style requested using a rapier loom; once woven, the fabric is removed from the loom.

#### **The job role may involve:**

1. Ensuring that the pattern is correct during weaving
2. Checking the quality of the fabric during weaving
3. Inspecting the fabric
4. Removing woven fabric from the loom
5. Folding the fabric

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#### Performance criteria

*You must be able to:*

- P1 weave fabric according to specification and quality requirements
- P2 check tweed pattern is correct as fabric is being woven
- P3 fix any mistakes/faults, where possible, as the fabric is being woven (i.e. missed picks, colour changes, lines, drifting, snarling weft, yarn imperfections, thick threads)
- P4 adjust height of boards as necessary to avoid loops/floaters
- P5 set up and adjust the tappets if necessary
- P6 check that leno thread is working correctly (12 threads of wastage on selvage) on both sides
- P7 ensure that scissor is cutting correctly
- P8 ensure that selvedge is woven correctly
- P9 inspect fabric as it is being woven – check for missing wefts, missing warps, drifting warps, tension differentials, snarls through lively yarns, slubs etc.
- P10 clean loom thoroughly between different fabrics
- P11 ensure alarm systems are operating correctly
- P12 adapt to use new types of yarn (style and cut)
- P13 inspect the woven fabric over a light or on a board on removal from the loom
- P14 darn or mend any mistakes/holes in the fabric where possible
- P15 mark areas of imperfection that cannot be mended
- P16 check whether yarns are sticking to other colours
- P17 remove excess yarn where possible
- P18 fold fabric according to width
- P19 measure length of woven cloth if required

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#### Knowledge and understanding

*You need to know and understand:*

#### Key areas of knowledge and understanding

- K1 the history of Harris Tweed and what it constitutes
- K2 difference between Bonas-Griffith and Hattersley looms
- K3 fabric width limitations for each type of loom
- K4 limitations and versatility of each type of loom
- K5 effect of number of boards on the patterns that can be woven
- K6 effect of height adjustment of boards on pattern
- K7 where to source leno thread
- K8 effects of yarn characteristics on woven fabric (drape, handle, appearance, ease of weaving)
- K9 how to set up reeds
- K10 speed limitations of the loom with respect to fault finding
- K11 length conventions (i.e. weavers yard)

#### Regulations, rules and guidelines

*You need to know and understand:*

- K12 The Harris Tweed Act 1993
- K13 quality systems and procedures as decided by the mill / organisation
- K14 limits of personal responsibility
- K15 reporting procedures
- K16 responsibilities under the Health & Safety at Work Act
- K17 loom makers operating brochure/training material

#### Additional Information

##### Skills

##### The skills and techniques

1. being observant with regard to quality checking fabric
2. determining the correct tool to use to fix faults
3. utilising bad yarn
4. knowing when to use packing yarn at the edges of the fabric when weaving starts to adjust the tension
5. the effect of weft and warp colours on resultant patterns, i.e. herringbone
6. building an effective working relationship with the mill

##### Workplace skills

7. deal with problems within the work area, and within limits of personal responsibility
8. report problems outside area of responsibility to the appropriate person
9. relate quality to end user / customer
10. time keeping
11. communicate effectively with mills/end users/customers
12. comply with written instructions
13. complete records accurately, and pass to appropriate person

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**Relevant occupations** Crafts, creative arts and design; Textile and Garment Trades

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**Suite** Heritage

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