

Overview

This standard covers the skills and knowledge required to fit and finish top covers in upholstery. This involves:

1. measuring and cutting fabrics to fit furniture
2. applying and fitting top covers to furniture to include either fluting or buttoning
3. trimming and finishing upholstery to specification
4. understanding the Furniture & Furnishings (Fire)(Safety) Regulations

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

This standard is aimed at people working in the upholstery and soft furnishings industry.

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. comply with health, safety and environmental requirements, relevant statutory regulations and industry standards/codes of practice at all times
2. identify and confirm specification for the work being undertaken
3. work with colleagues to achieve the specification
4. measure shape and dimensions of items to be upholstered
5. record measurements following standard operating procedures
6. plan cutting of fabrics to minimise waste and take account of design characteristics and handling implications of fabrics used
7. measure and mark out components within the acceptable tolerance limits
8. cut components within acceptable tolerance limits following standard operating procedures
9. protect fabric from damage
10. mark components for assembly and fitting following standard operating procedures
11. place the components in fitting position following standard operating procedures
12. align and orientate components to meet fabric, pattern and design requirements
13. attach the components in sequence following standard operating procedures
14. position and form pleats, darts and collars following standard operating procedures
15. use fixing methods which are appropriate to the type of components
16. attach the components securely to the required shape, contour lines, tension and finish
17. locate, fit and secure buttons in position following standard operating procedures
18. check the bottom cloths are accurate, neat and secured following standard operating procedures
19. check finished items are free from protruding and sharp fixings
20. check the visual appearance of the upholstered items meet the specification
21. position trimmings and fixings to give the required visual appearance
22. attach trimmings and fixings using methods which give required durability and appearance
23. check top covers are free from loose ends or visible stitchings
24. secure feet using fixings which will give the required strength
25. check feet are in position to give the required stability and range of movement

26. ensure fillings, materials and fabrics comply with the Furniture & Furnishings (Fire)(Safety) Regulations
27. carry out your work to the required quality and output to meet production schedules and targets
28. identify any problems and deal with them according to standard operating procedures
29. record information in the appropriate information systems

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. the relevant health, safety and environmental requirements, statutory regulations and industry standards/codes of practice that have to be complied with
2. how to confirm the specifications for the work being undertaken
3. the level of detail required in a specification
4. the handling and cutting characteristics of different types of materials used as upholstery covers and bottom cloths
5. the meaning of terms used in technical specifications for upholstery
6. measurements and dimensions needed to ensure accurate cutting and fitting in respect of different types of component
7. markers to use for different types of upholstery fabric
8. cutting tolerances for different types of component and how this is influenced by fabric type
9. implications of not properly placing and aligning fabric before cutting it
10. why it is important to minimise waste
11. how to take account of design characteristics such as pattern repeats and pile direction in planning cutting
12. the functions and uses of the different types of measuring and marking and cutting tools
13. steps taken to protect fabric from damage
14. how to dispose of waste in accordance with current legislation
15. why the sequence in which components are attached is important to the efficiency of the process and the quality of the outcome achieved
16. when and why pleats, darts and collars may be formed on upholstery components
17. how buttons are attached and the different uses of float and deep-buttoning methods
18. how to secure bottom covers and why this is important
19. when and why to carry out checks to confirm that there are no sharp or protruding fixings
20. the implications for your work of the current Furnishings Regulations
21. how to dispose of waste in accordance with current legislation
22. trimmings and finishings used in upholstery and why they are used
23. different fixing methods used for upholstery trimmings
24. how to make sure that patterns and spacing of decorative nails are accurate and what role the sequence of application plays in that
25. methods of fixing to give feet the appropriate strength for their purpose

26. the principles which underlie the positioning of different types of feet for stability and movement
27. fabric composition in relation to UK Fire Regulations
28. Furniture & Furnishings (Fire)(Safety) Regulations
29. type of problems that can occur and the standard operating procedures for dealing with them
30. information systems that should be used and why it is important to record information

Fit and finish top covers

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Suite Upholstery & Soft Furnishings

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