

Produce seamed components

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**Overview**

This standard covers the skills and knowledge required to produce seamed components used in upholstery and soft furnishing production by hand and through the use of machinery.

This involves:

1. setting up sewing machines
2. stitching items

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

Components includes straight and shaped sews on symmetrical or asymmetrical pieces to produce structured forms, seams involving pleating, ruching and quilting and the stitching of applied items such as internal zips, other fastenings and pipings.

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## 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 work being undertaken
3. work with colleagues to achieve specifications
4. check required tools, equipment and materials are available to achieve work specification
5. check materials to be used are specified colour and type
6. check sewing equipment to be used is in a safe and functional condition and clean of grease and other sources of potential damage to fabric following standard operating procedures
7. identify and discard materials that are not to specification following standard operating procedures
8. set up sewing machines with appropriate work holding devices, needles, feet and thread spools for the work to be carried out
9. carry out test stitching to confirm stitch length and fabric reaction are within specifications
10. stitch items in sequence and alignment for components being produced
11. check seams are of suitable dimension and outline for components being produced
12. leave suitable seam allowance and ensure that it is even following standard operating procedures
13. use appropriate stitch length and structure for material, component and specification following standard operating procedures
14. complete stitching within required time following standard operating procedures
15. complete quality checks following standard operating procedures
16. carry out work to required quality and output to meet production schedules and targets
17. identify problems and deal with them according to standard operating procedures
18. record information in the appropriate information systems

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## Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. the relevant health, safety and environmental requirements, relevant statutory regulations and industry standards/codes of practice that have to be complied with
2. how to confirm specifications for the work being undertaken
3. the level of detail required in specifications
4. meaning of terms used in describing components
5. why it is important to have a clear and clean work area and the consequences of lubricants or debris getting onto materials
6. functions and uses of different types of sewing equipment used
7. functions and uses of different types of foot and needles used
8. the implications of inappropriate tensioning of stitches and how to overcome problems this can cause
9. functions and uses of the different types of sewing machine components
10. types of equipment faults that can occur and how to recognise and deal with them
11. why machine, needle, foot and spool checks are carried out
12. characteristics of different types of fabrics and how these affect the preparations that are needed before sewing and threads to be used
13. when to carry out test sews, the types of faults they can show up and what adjustments are needed to deal with them to ensure that seamed components can be produced following standard operating procedures
14. types of fabric, template and lay faults which occur, how they are identified and how they can be dealt with
15. handling and sewing characteristics of common types of materials used
16. different types of stitching used and when each is used
17. why a seam allowance is left
18. the implications of inappropriate tensioning of stitches and how to overcome problems this can cause
19. stitching errors and how to resolve them
20. why it is important to complete seams by trimming, notching and the removal of basting before components are used
21. work rates you are expected to meet
22. quality checks required
23. type of problems that can occur and the standard operating procedures for dealing with them
24. information systems that should be used and why it is important to record information

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**Originating Organisation** Proskills

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**Suite** Upholstery & Soft Furnishings

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