

Overview

This standard covers the skills and knowledge required to prepare components and produce complex shaped cushions and padded items.

This involves:

1. measuring and cutting fabrics
2. sewing components
3. trimming and finishing
4. an understanding of the Furniture & Furnishings (Fire)(Safety) Regulations

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 specifications for work being undertaken
3. work with colleagues to achieve specifications
4. cut fabric to minimise waste and take account of design characteristics and handling implications following standard operating procedures
5. measure and mark out components within acceptable tolerance limits following standard operating procedures
6. align and orientate components to meet fabric, pattern and design requirements
7. protect fabrics from damage
8. clearly mark components following standard operating procedures
9. place materials and components in position following standard operating procedures
10. measure components to design specification
11. ensure use of fire safe cushion pad materials at all times
12. attach components in sequence following standard operating procedures
13. use sewing methods which are suitable for type of component following standard operating procedures
14. attach components securely to required shape and finish following standard operating procedures
15. fit closure components following standard operating procedures
16. check there are no loose threads on the finished complex shaped cushions and padded items
17. check visual appearance of complex shaped cushions and padded items meets the specification
18. assemble components following standard operating procedures
19. attach components using suitable sewing methods following standard operating procedures
20. position closures, trimmings and decorative finishes to give the required visual appearance following standard operating procedures
21. attach closures, trimmings and decorative finishes using methods which will give the required durability and appearance following standard operating procedures
22. apply closures, trimmings and decorative finishes in sequence following standard operating procedures
23. carry out work required in order that the finished cushions and padded items comply with the Furniture & Furnishings (Fire)(Safety) Regulations
24. carry out work to required quality and output to meet production schedules

Produce complex shaped cushions and padded items

- and targets
25. identify problems and deal with them according to standard operating procedures
 26. 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, statutory regulations and industry standards/codes of practice that have to be complied with
2. how to confirm specifications for work being undertaken
3. level of detail required in specifications
4. meaning of terms used in technical specifications for complex shaped cushions and padded items
5. handling and cutting characteristics of materials used
6. measurements and dimensions needed to ensure accurate cutting and fitting of different types of component
7. markers to use for different types of fabric
8. cutting tolerances for different types of component and ways this may be 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. functions and uses of different types of measuring and marking tools
13. steps taken to protect fabrics from damage
14. requirements of Fire Regulations relating to cushions on domestic upholstered furniture
15. fabric compositions in relation to fire regulations
16. sequence in which components are attached and importance to efficiency and quality of outcomes achieved
17. methods of closures used
18. sewing methods used
19. how different trimmings and decorative finishes are applied
20. trimmings and decorative finishes used and why
21. different closures used for producing complex shaped cushions and padded items
22. why the sequence in which components are attached is of importance to appearance of the finished complex shaped cushions and padded items
23. implications and legal requirements of Furniture & Furnishings (Fire)(Safety) Regulations
24. composition and characteristics of different fabrics and how this applies to fire regulations
25. differences between a fire retardant calico and fire retardant

interline/barrier cloths

26. types of fabrics used with a fire retardant interline/barrier cloth
27. cleaning, care and labelling requirements
28. implications of trimmings in relation to fire regulations
29. type of problems that can occur and the standard operating procedures for dealing with them

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