

PROFFI213 (SQA Unit Code - FE4P 04) Cut fabrics and components for use in soft furnishings and/or upholstery



Overview

This standard addresses the competence required to cut fabrics used in upholstery and/or soft furnishings. This involves:

- 1 cutting fabric components
- 2 marking and sorting components
- 3 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

Cut fabrics

You must be able to:

- P1 plan the marking out and cutting of the **material** so as to minimise waste and take account of **material** type, width and pile
- P2 take account of **material** pattern, type, width and pile when marking out and cutting
- P3 correctly align marked **components** on the **material**, taking account of pattern matching when appropriate
- P4 make sure that marked **components** will be free of major flaws and that any minor defects will not be visible when used
- P5 mark out **components** accurately, clearly and to within acceptable tolerance limits
- P6 cut the **components** cleanly and accurately to within the given size and shape tolerances
- P7 deal promptly and effectively with any **problems** that occur
- P8 follow **safe** working procedures when:
 - P8.1 using sharp **tools** and items of **equipment**;
 - P8.2 using powered **equipment**;
- P9 keep your work area tidy and protect the **material** from damage while it is being worked on
- P10 store **cutting tools and equipment** in a designated safe location and position

You must be able to:

Mark and prepare fabric components

- P11 sort out , mark the cut **components** using the designated identification system
- P12 remove **templates and lays** and check that they are free from damage before storing them over for future use
- P13 prepare the **components** according to the **specification** and confirm that they are ready for the next stage in the process
- P14 protect the **components** from damage while they are being handled and passed on to the next stage
- P15 sort out and move any left over **material** and wastes into the designated locations according to what is to happen to them
- P16 deal promptly and effectively with any damaged **templates, lays** and other **problems**
- P17 pass the **components** over to the next stage in the process in the required time
- P18 complete required records so that they are accurate and legible

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

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- K1 the handling and cutting characteristics of different types of materials used in upholstery and soft furnishings
- K2 the meaning of terms used in technical specifications for upholstery and soft furnishings
- K3 why it is necessary to maintain cut components within the given tolerances
- K4 what wastage levels apply and why it is important to minimise waste
- K5 the sorts of problems that can occur during marking out and cutting materials and how to deal with them
- K6 when and why it is important to match the pattern
- K7 the functions and uses of the different types of tools and equipment that are used in cutting material
- K8 how to handle sharp and powered tools safely in ways that protect yourself and others from risk
- K9 what your personal responsibilities are with regard to health and safety legislation
- K10 the health and safety issues that can arise if a work area is disorganised and untidy
- K11 what your personal limitations are in respect of the PUWER regulations 1998

Mark and prepare fabric components

You need to know and understand:

- K12 which markers it is most appropriate to use for different types of material
- K13 how and why components are marked and what sorts of systems are used
- K14 how to determine when templates and lays are beyond use and how to make repairs to those that can be repaired
- K15 how to interpret work specifications so as to identify the preparations needed
- K16 why it is important to protect components from damage
- K17 how to handle and store left over materials so as to make the best use of them
- K18 what your personal responsibilities are with regard to health and safety
- K19 waste handling arrangements in the workplace
- K20 what information should be recorded and why this is important

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Additional Information

Scope

Materials

The different forms of material used for upholstery and soft furnishings. 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, plain pile, vinyl, stretch fabrics and flat weave fabrics, as well as natural hide. In addition, 'materials' includes finishing materials used in edgings, trimmings and linings and for the covering of buttons.

Components

The pieces of material from which an upholstery item (e.g. cover, bottom cloth) or soft furnishing item (e.g. curtain length, lining, blind, bed hanging) is fashioned by sewing and other fixing methods. They may be simple or complex, symmetrical or asymmetrical.

Templates and lays

The moulds or shapes used to enable the marking out and cutting of material to specified size and shape. They may be made of paper, card, hardboard, plywood or plastic.

Cutting tools and equipment

Manual cutting equipment including:

- 1 knives
- 2 shears
- 3 scalpels

Powered cutting equipment including:

- 1 powered knives
- 2 circular cutters
- 3 panel cutters
- 4 slitting machines
- 5 cutting benches

Work 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: material shall be shaped and cut accurately, for both single-lay and multi-lay cutting component marking is accurate to within +/- 3mm.

Problems

In relation to the preparation and laying out of templates, fabrics and lays, these will be to do with material defects, colour/pattern mismatching, defects and faults in templates and lays. In relation to the cutting process, these will be to do with blunt or non-functional tools and equipment. The person carrying out this role is responsible for rejecting, replacing or rectifying these sorts of problems, reporting them when they cannot be dealt with quickly, safely and readily.

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