

PROFFI212 (SQA Unit Code - FE5H 04)

Prepare fabrics and components for use in soft furnishings and/or upholstery



Overview

This standard addresses competence required to prepare fabric and components used in upholstery and/or soft furnishings. This involves:

1. preparing fabrics, templates and lays
2. laying out fabrics
3. matching fabrics
4. 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

Prepare fabrics, templates and lays

You must be able to:

- P1 organise the **materials, tools and equipment** you will need so that you can work effectively and keep your work area tidy
- P2 check that you have the required **work specification** and that it is clear and complete
- P3 obtain the fabric, **templates and lays** and check that they conform to the **specification**
- P4 deal promptly with any **problems** that arise, reporting any which you cannot solve
- P5 follow safe working practices at all times
- P6 keep work area tidy and protect items from damage while they are being worked on
- P7 follow safe working procedures when lifting and moving heavy items
- P8 complete the preparations within the required time
- P9 complete required records so that they are accurate and legible

Layout and match fabric

You must be able to:

- P10 check that the pattern and batch number of the **material** corresponds with the **specification**
- P11 when necessary colour match part rolls and integrate them into the complete job
- P12 position and roll the **material** so that it lies flat, square and true on the cutting bench
- P13 mark any **material** faults which are within **specification** limits
- P14 check, when necessary that the pattern of the **material** is matched
- P15 deal promptly and effectively with any **problems** that occur
- P16 follow safe working procedures at all times
- P17 keep your work area tidy and protect the fabric from damage while it is being worked on
- P18 store unused part rolls of **material** in a designated location and position
- P19 complete preparations within required time

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

Prepare fabrics, templates and lays

- K1 the meaning of terms used in technical specifications for upholstery and/or soft furnishings
- K2 the functions of the different types of tools and equipment that are used in upholstery and/or soft furnishings
- K3 how to handle sharp and powered tools safely in ways that protect yourself and others from risk
- K4 what your personal responsibilities are with regard to health and safety legislation
- K5 how to set out a work area for efficient working and the health and safety issues that can arise if a work area is disorganised and untidy
- K6 where to obtain the fabric, templates and lays from and how to check that they conform to specification
- K7 what the consequences are of lubricants and debris being left on work surfaces, tools and equipment
- K8 what information should be recorded and why this is important

Layout and match fabric

You need to know and understand:

- K9 the handling and cutting characteristics of different types of materials used in upholstery and soft furnishings
- K10 the meaning of terms used in technical specifications for upholstery and soft furnishings
- K11 why it is important to check fabrics, templates and lays against specifications and what to do where there are faults or problems with them
- K12 the handling and rolling out characteristics of different types of fabrics used in upholstery and soft furnishings
- K13 how to match the pattern if necessary
- K14 how and why to manage the use of part rolls of fabrics
- K15 types of fabric, template and lay faults which occur, how they are identified and how they can be dealt with
- K16 the importance of storing fabrics in suitable locations and positions
- K17 waste limits and why waste should be kept to a minimum
- K18 what your personal responsibilities are with regard to health and safety legislation
- K19 who to report an unsolvable problem to
- K20 equipment storage arrangements and why it is important to follow them
- K21 why it is important to keep to time schedules
- K22 how to dispose of waste in accordance with current legislation

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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 include 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:

- 1 material shall be shaped and cut accurately, for both single-lay and multi-lay cutting
- 2 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 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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