

PROFFI313 (SQA Unit Code - FE5X 04) Produce cushions and/or bolsters and padded items



Overview

This standard addresses the competence required to prepare components and produce cushions and/or bolsters and padded materials. This involves:

- 1 measuring and cutting fabrics and padding to make a padded item
- 2 sewing the components together to make a padded item
- 3 trimming and finishing the padded item
- 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 components for a cushion, bolster and/or padded item

You must be able to:

- P1 organise the **materials, tools and equipment** you will need so that you can work effectively and keep the work area tidy
- P2 check that you have the required work **specification** and that it is clear and complete
- P3 plan the cutting of the **fabric** and **filling material** so as to minimise waste and take account of the design characteristics and handling implications of the **fabric** and **filling** to be used
- P4 measure and mark out the **components** accurately, clearly and to within acceptable tolerance limits for the **fabric** and **filling** being used
- P5 ensure fabric placement and alignment is appropriate for the type and number of **components** required and the fabric characteristics
- P6 deal promptly and effectively with any **problems** that occur
- P7 follow safe working procedures when using sharp **tools** and items of **equipment**
- P8 protect the **fabric** and **filling material** from damage while it is being worked on
- P9 make sure that the **components** are clearly and accurately marked where necessary

Sew components

You must be able to:

- P10 accurately place the all **materials** and **components** in their correct position
- P11 make sure that **components** are correctly orientated and aligned to meet **fabric**, pattern and design requirements
- P12 attach the **fabric components** in an efficient sequence
- P13 use **sewing methods** which are appropriate to the type of **fabric component**
- P14 attach the **fabric components** together securely and to the required shape, and finish
- P15 locate, **sew** and secure **fabric components** as appropriate
- P16 insert **filling materials** by appropriate method
- P17 check and confirm that there are no protruding or sharp fixings on the finished padded item
- P18 check and confirm that there are no loose threads on the finished padded item
- P19 check and confirm that the visual appearance of the padded item meets the **specification**
- P20 deal effectively with any **problems** which may arise
- P21 follow safe working practices when using fixing **tools** and **equipment**

Finish a padded item

You must be able to:

- P22 organise the **tools and equipment** you will need to complete the **specification**

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- P23 check that you have the required finishing **specification** and that it is complete
- P24 assemble **components** using appropriate method
- P25 attach components using appropriate **fixing method**
- P26 accurately position any **trimmings** to give the required visual appearance
- P27 securely attach the **trimmings** using **methods** which will give the required durability and appearance
- P28 make sure that there are no loose ends or visible stitchings
- P29 follow an efficient sequence when applying trimmings
- P30 deal effectively with any **problems** which may arise
- P31 follow **safe** working procedures at all times

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

Prepare components for a cushion, bolster and/or padded item

- K1 the meaning of terms used in technical specifications for padded items
- K2 the handling and cutting characteristics of different types of materials and fillings used in padded items
- K3 how many measurements and of which dimension are needed to ensure accurate cutting and fitting in respect of different types of component
- K4 which markers are most appropriate to use for different types of fabric and filling materials
- K5 what cutting tolerances are appropriate for different types of component and in what ways this may be influenced by fabric and filling type
- K6 what the implications are of not properly placing and aligning fabric and filling before cutting it
- K7 why it is important to minimise waste
- K8 how to take account of design characteristics such as pattern repeats and pile direction in planning cutting
- K9 the sorts of problems that can occur during marking out and cutting fabric and fillings and how to deal with them
- K10 the functions and uses of the different types of measuring and marking tools
- K11 what your personal responsibilities are with regard to health and safety
- K12 what steps should be taken to protect fabric and fillings from damage

You need to know and understand:

Sew components

- K13 the handling characteristics of different fabrics and fillings and how this can affect their behaviour during positioning and fixing
- K14 why the sequence in which components are attached is important to the efficiency of the process and the quality of the outcome achieved
- K15 when and why different types of fillings may be used in padded items
- K16 when and why sorts of seeming methods are used
- K17 how fillings are inserted and the different uses of padded items
- K18 what sort of problems can arise and how to deal with them
- K19 when and why to carry out checks to confirm that there are no sharp or protruding fixings
- K20 how to confirm that the outcome quality matches the specification
- K21 your personal responsibilities with regard to health and safety

You need to know and understand:

Finish a padded item

- K22 what sorts of trimmings are used in padded items and why
- K23 when and why different finishing methods are used for padded items
- K24 terms used in technical specifications for padded items
- K25 why the sequence in which the components are attached is of importance to the appearance of the finished padded item

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- K26 how to make sure that patterns and spacing of finishings are accurate and what role the sequence of application plays in that
- K27 what sorts of problems can arise and how to deal with them
- K28 who to report unsolvable problems to
- K29 what your personal responsibilities are with regard to health and safety

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Additional Information

Scope

Components

The pieces of material and padding from which a cushion, bolster or other padded item is fashioned by sewing and other fixing methods. Examples of sewing method could include straight, shaped sews and seams involving simple pleating.

Filling materials

Different types of filling components including foam, kapok, loose wadding, polystyrene beads, feathers and down.

Fabrics

The different forms of material used for making padded treatments. These include a range of different fabric, including materials that require careful handling if an accurate cut is to be achieved and components properly aligned e.g. patterned/striped fabrics with a minimum pattern repeat of 25cm, plain and patterned pile, flat weave fabrics.

Fixing methods

This unit covers the use of hand sewing, including slip stitch, ladder stitch and hemming stitch. Machine sewing including flat and flat fell seams. Gluing, tacking and stapling where appropriate.

Problems

In relation to the cutting of fabrics, these will be to do with flaws, distortions and colour/pattern variations in the fabric, inaccurate measurements and mis-alignments. In relation to the fillings flaws and distortions. In relation to the assembly and sewing process, these will be to do slipping, fraying, inaccuracies, poor seam quality and equipment faults. The person carrying out this role is responsible for rectifying these types of problems in ways which ensure that the quality of the outcome is not compromised.

Sewing

This unit covers both machine and hand sewing.

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 cutting and shaping accuracy is to within +/- 5mm, for both single-lay and multi-lay cutting component marking is accurate to within +/- 3mm

Trimmings and edgings

This unit covers the assembly of cushions, bolsters and other padded items and the trimmings that can be used in the finished item. Including corded and flanged edging, ties, zips and button fastenings.

Tools and equipment

This unit covers the use of cutting equipment including knives, shears and scalpels, measuring and marking equipment and both hand sewing equipment including scissors, pins, needles, thread, tailor's chalk, bodkin and sewing machines.

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