

PROFFI214 (SQA Unit Code - FE65 04) Produce simple seamed components by hand and machine



Overview

This standard addresses the competence required to produce simple seamed components used in upholstery and soft furnishing production by hand and through the use of machinery. This involves

- 1 preparing components and materials
- 2 stitching seams to specification
- 3 pressing materials before and after stitching to achieve specification
- 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 to produce simple seamed components

You must be able to:

- P1 check that you have the required **tools, equipment** and **materials** to achieve the **work specification**
- P2 check that the **materials** to be used are of the specified, correct colour and type
- P3 check that the sewing **equipment** to be used is in a safe and functional condition and clean of grease and other sources of potential damage to fabric
- P4 make sure that the work area is clear and clean
- P5 follow the correct procedures to identify and discard any **materials** that are not to **specification**
- P6 set up sewing machines with the correct work holding devices, needles, feet and thread spools for the work to be carried out
- P7 carry out test stitching to confirm that stitch length and fabric reaction are within **specifications**
- P8 follow safe working procedures when setting up and operating sewing **equipment**
- P9 deal promptly with any problems which arise, reporting any which you cannot solve
- P10 complete the preparations within the required time

Stitch simple seams to specification

You must be able to:

- P11 stitch the items in the required sequence and alignment for the **component** being produced
- P12 make sure that seams are of the correct dimension and outline for the **component** being produced
- P13 leave the correct seam allowance and ensure that it is even
- P14 use the correct stitch length and structure for the **material** and **component**, whether by hand and/or machine
- P15 complete the stitching within the required time
- P16 deal promptly and effectively with stitching errors
- P17 complete the stitched items so that they are ready for use
- P18 if required, check and confirm that the pressing **equipment** is clean and ready for use
- P19 use the correct technique for pressing items
- P20 accurately complete quality checks and confirm that they have been met before passing on the work
- P21 follow safe working procedures when setting up and operating sewing **equipment**

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

Prepare to produce simple seamed components

- K1 the meaning of terms used in describing upholstery and soft furnishing components
- K2 why it is important to have a clear and clean work area and the consequences of lubricants or debris getting onto materials
- K3 the functions and uses of the different types of sewing equipment used in upholstery
- K4 the functions and uses of the different types of foot and needle in use
- K5 what the implications are of inappropriate tensioning of stitches and how to overcome problems this can cause
- K6 the functions and uses of the different types of sewing machine components
- K7 what your personal responsibilities are with regard to health and safety
- K8 what your personal limitations are in respect of dealing with problems which can arise
- K9 the types of equipment fault that can occur and how to recognise and deal with them
- K10 when and why machine, needle, foot and spool checks are carried out
- K11 the characteristics of different types of upholstery fabrics and how these affect the preparations that are needed before sewing and the threads to be used
- K12 when and why to carry out test sews, the types of faults they can show up and what adjustments are needed to deal with them
- K13 types of fabric, template and lay faults which occur, how they are identified and how they can be dealt with
- K14 what is an economic time for setting up and preparing to produce simple seamed components

You need to know and understand:

Stitch simple seams to specification

- K15 the meaning of terms used in describing upholstery and soft furnishing components
- K16 the handling and sewing characteristics of common type of material used in soft furnishings and upholstery
- K17 the different types of stitching, either hand and/or machine that are used in simple upholstery and soft furnishing seams and when each is used
- K18 why a seam allowance is left
- K19 what the implications are of inappropriate tensioning of stitches and how to overcome problems this can cause
- K20 what sort of stitching errors can occur and how to resolve them
- K21 why it is important to complete seams by trimming, notching and/or the removal of basting before the component is used
- K22 what your personal responsibilities are with regard to health and safety

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in the workplace

K23 work rates that you are expected to meet

K24 when and what type of pressing equipment to use

K25 what techniques need to be used when pressing items

K26 what quality checks are required

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Additional Information

Scope

Components

This unit covers the making of upholstery and soft furnishing components which require the use of simple rather than complex seams. Examples could include straight and shaped sews (on upholstery top covers and bottom cloths, curtain lengths, cushions/bolsters or bed hangings).

Materials

The different forms of material used in soft furnishings and upholstery. These include materials that are easy to handle and those which require careful handling if sewing is to result in components which are properly aligned e.g. patterned/striped, plain/pile, stretch and flat weave fabrics.

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 seam stitch length and tensioning is within accepted tolerance
- 2 seam type (e.g. straight sews, shaped sews) is correct
- 3 shape and size measurements are within +/- 3mm tolerance

Tools and equipment

The hand and machine equipment used within soft furnishing and upholstery manufacture. Sewing equipment includes lockstitch machines, long arm machines, twin needle machines, overlock machines and multi-needle machines and their various components i.e. work-holding devices, needles, thread spools, feet. Hand equipment includes needles, pins, scissors, pinking shears, seam ripper, bodkin, cloth tape measure, tailor's chalk, upholstery needle, upholstery skewer. Pressing equipment to include irons and any other pressing equipment.

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