

## Overview

This standard is for print finishers using auto-fed sewing machinery. They will be expected to set up the equipment and control it whilst running production jobs.

This standard consists of two elements:

- Set up auto-fed sewing machinery
- Run auto-fed sewing machinery and monitor quality

This is what the standard covers:

1. identifying the job requirements
2. checking that the auto-fed sewing machinery is working properly
3. checking that safety devices are working properly
4. running the auto-fed sewing machinery safely
5. adjusting settings, where necessary to maintain the required standard
6. checking that work meets the required standard
7. identifying faults and taking action to deal with them
8. unloading and stacking the finished product

## Performance criteria

You must be able to:

### Set up auto-fed sewing machinery

1. check that you have all the job details you need
2. check that you have enough materials of the right type
3. report to relevant people straight away, when the materials provided are not correct or sufficient
4. set up the sewing machine so that:
  - 4.1 the feeder correctly locates the centre of each section
  - 4.2 sections are fed squarely and without damage into the sewing machine
  - 4.3 endpapers are glued squarely and securely onto sections
  - 4.4 sewing positions are spaced across spines within the finished trim size
  - 4.5 sewing holds sections securely without damage or distortion
  - 4.6 sewn book blocks are delivered without damage
5. check that samples produced by the machine match required standards
6. make any necessary adjustments, to enable standards to be met
7. report to relevant people without delay, when standards cannot be met
8. prepare your work area so that it is safe and ready for production

### Run auto-fed sewing machinery and monitor quality

9. run auto-fed sewing machinery so that it is safe and efficient and at the required speed
10. keep up sufficient supplies of materials so that runs continue as long as necessary
11. check at regular intervals that your company's quality standards are met
12. identify the causes of faults in production, which result in:
  - 12.1 missed or loose stitches
  - 12.2 sections not square at head
  - 12.3 glue marks on sections
  - 12.4 rub marking on sections
13. adjust machines, using approved methods and equipment, to correct faults which it is your job to remedy
14. use agreed procedures to report faults which it is not your job to correct
15. check that machinery is safe to operate, once faults have been corrected
16. record the production and quality assurance details, ensuring information is accurate
17. follow the correct procedures for the removal of waste
18. stack work using the approved method

## Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

### Health and safety

1. your duties and responsibilities for health and safety as defined by any specific legislation covering your job role
2. regulations such as those covering manual handling, noise at work, personal protective equipment, safe handling of equipment and materials, and the safe use of computer equipment
3. workplace policies and written operating procedures relating to written health and safety policy statement, provision, use and processes of workplace equipment, training, prohibited equipment, young persons, safe systems of work

### Working practices

4. the way you actually do your job, more particularly the activities and techniques and the way that materials and equipment are used
5. typical hazards and risks in the printing industry and those that relate to your own job
6. risk assessment techniques and the action to take to deal with them
7. codes of practice relevant to your role and where to obtain information on them
8. manufacturers' and suppliers' health and safety instructions and advice for operating machinery, guarding machinery and data sheets for substances harmful to health
9. the requirements for personal presentation including personal hygiene, suitable clothing and accessories, fitness for work, such as not under the influence of drugs, alcohol or medication, smoking policies in the workplace
10. how to stop a machine in the event of an emergency

### Auto fed sewing machinery

11. the purpose of auto fed sewing
12. the information and materials required to meet job specification
13. safety devices found on auto fed sewing machinery, their purpose and how to check they are functional
14. how to set up auto fed sewing machinery to meet job requirements
15. the causes of common faults and how to rectify them including missed or loose stitches, sections not square at head, glue marks on sections, rub marking on sections

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**The causes and treatment of common faults**

16. the causes of faults with raw materials, processes and machinery used in your business and how to identify and treat them

**Quality assurance and control**

17. techniques for controlling quality including inspection, testing, sampling and use of input and output controls
18. the impact that faults, in the process you are involved with, have on later processes and the quality of the end product

**Problem solving**

19. types of problems that may need to be solved including machinery - electrical, mechanical, electronic, settings, component wear and tear, consumables needing replacement, materials - defects, shortages, incompatibility, systems, organisation and lack of skills or knowledge
20. sources of information for solving problems including manufacturer's documentation / troubleshooting guides, colleagues, tutors / trainers / mentors and reference material - in house or external, such as the internet
21. techniques for solving complex problems including changing one thing only at a time and assessing effect of the change, using the problem solving cycle, root cause analysis, brainstorming and visual representations, such as fishbone / mindmap diagrams
22. techniques for assessing machine faults including observation, listening, inspection of product, reports from colleagues / log reports, touch or smell (if safe to do so) and testing, such as electrical, mechanical, electronic

**Materials**

23. the types of paper, board and other commonly used substrates including commonly used uncoated, coated, embossed papers and boards
24. the grammage, thickness, opacity, brightness/whiteness, strength, dimensional stability, gloss of paper, board and other commonly used substrates
25. how to maintain the quality of materials and protect them from damage, humidity and temperature during storage and handling
26. how to label and identify materials

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**Scope/range**

In addition to being able to produce commercially acceptable work, operators should be competent to sew open head, closed head and lapped for edge work.

Operators should be able to deal with all running problems within his/her responsibility.

## PROPF342 (SQA Unit Code - H9KM 04)

Set up and control auto-fed sewing machinery



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**Developed by** Proskills

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**Version Number** 2

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**Date Approved** October 2014

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**Validity** Current

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**Status** Original

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**Originating Organisation** Proskills

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**Original URN** PROPF342

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**Relevant Occupations** Originators compositors and print preps; Printers; Printing machine minders and assistants; Printing Trades; Screen printers; Bookbinders and print finishers; Graphic designers

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**Suite** Post Press

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**Keywords** post press, post-press, print finishing, machinery, auto-fed, sewing

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