

Overview

This standard covers the skills and knowledge required to prepare components and produce advanced loose covers.

This involves:

1. measuring and cutting fabrics
2. sewing the components
3. trimming and finishing
4. an understanding of the Furniture & Furnishings (Fire)(Safety) Regulations

This standard is aimed at those working in soft furnishings.

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. comply with health, safety and environmental requirements, relevant statutory regulations and industry standards/codes of practice at all times
2. identify and confirm the specification for the work being undertaken
3. work with colleagues to achieve the specification
4. carry out your work to the required quality and output to meet production schedules and targets
5. cut fabric to minimise waste and take account of the design characteristics and handling implications of the fabric to be used
6. measure and mark out the components within acceptable tolerance limits following standard operating procedures
7. ensure fabric placement and alignment is suitable for type, components and characteristics following standard operating procedures
8. protect fabric from damage
9. ensure components are marked following standard operating procedures
10. place materials and components in position to minimise waste following standard operating procedures
11. align and orientate components to meet fabric, pattern and design requirements following standard operating procedures
12. attach the components in an efficient sequence
13. use suitable sewing methods for type of component following standard operating procedures
14. attach components to the required shape and finish following standard operating procedures
15. attach lining component following standard operating procedures
16. fit closure components following standard operating procedures
17. check there are no loose threads on the finished loose cover
18. check the visual appearance of the loose cover meets the specification
19. attach components following standard operating procedures
20. position closures, trimmings and decorative finishes to give the required visual appearance
21. attach closures, trimmings and decorative finishes using methods which give the required durability and appearance following standard operating procedures
22. apply closures, trimmings or decorative finishes in sequence following standard operating procedures
23. carry out work required in order that the finished loose cover complies with the Furniture & Furnishings (Fire)(Safety) Regulations
24. check fabric choice meets the specification and requirements of the regulations

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25. identify problems and deal with them according to standard operating procedure
 26. record information in the appropriate information systems

Produce advanced loose covers

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. the relevant health, safety and environmental requirements, statutory regulations and industry standards/codes of practice that have to be complied with
2. how to confirm the specifications for the work being undertaken
3. the level of detail required in a specification
4. the handling and cutting characteristics of different types of materials used in loose covers
5. measurements and dimensions needed to ensure accurate cutting and fitting of different types of component
6. markers to use for different types of fabric
7. cutting tolerances for different types of component and ways this may be influenced by fabric type
8. the implications of not properly placing and aligning fabric before cutting it
9. why it is important to minimise waste
10. how to take account of design characteristics such as pattern repeats and pile direction in planning cutting
11. functions and uses of measuring and marking tools
12. steps taken to protect fabric from damage
13. the requirements of the Fire Regulations relating to loose and stretch covers on domestic upholstered furniture
14. fabric compositions in relation to the fire regulations
15. the sequence in which components are attached and importance to the efficiency and quality of the outcome achieved
16. linings used in loose covers
17. methods of closures used
18. sewing methods used
19. how different trimmings and decorative finishes are applied
20. trimmings and decorative finishes used in loose covers and why
21. the implications and legal requirements of the Furniture & Furnishings (Fire)(Safety) Regulations
22. composition and characteristics of different fabrics and how this applies to the fire regulations
23. the difference between a fire retardant calico and a fire retardant interline/barrier cloth
24. types of fabrics used with fire retardant interline/barrier cloth
25. cleaning, care and labelling requirements of covers
26. fabrics used to make loose covers

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27. the implications of trimmings in relation to the fire regulations
 28. the type of problems that can occur and the standard operating procedures for dealing with them
 29. information systems that should be used and why it is important to record information

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Suite Upholstery & Soft Furnishings

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