

Produce loose covers

Overview

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

This involves:

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

This standard is aimed at people working in the upholstery and soft furnishings industry.

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 specifications for the work being undertaken
3. work with colleagues to achieve specifications
4. cut the fabric to minimise waste and take account of the design characteristics and handling implications of fabrics following standard operating procedures
5. measure and mark out the components within acceptable tolerance limits following standard operating procedures
6. check fabric placement and alignment is suitable for type and number of components required and fabric characteristics following standard operating procedures
7. protect fabric from damage
8. mark components following standard operating procedures
9. align and orientate components to meet fabric, pattern and design requirements following standard operating procedures
10. attach components in sequence following standard operating procedures
11. sew components following standard operating procedures
12. secure components to required shape and finish following standard operating procedures
13. attach lining following standard operating procedures
14. check there are no loose threads on the finished loose cover
15. check visual appearance of loose covers meets specifications
16. assemble components following standard operating procedures
17. attach components following standard operating procedures
18. position trimmings and decorative finishes to give the required visual appearance following standard operating procedures
19. attach trimmings and decorative finishes using methods which give required durability and appearance following standard operating procedures
20. apply trimmings and decorative finishes in sequence following standard operating procedures
21. carry out the work required in order that the finished loose covers complies with the Furniture & Furnishings (Fire) (Safety) Regulations
22. check and confirm that fabric choice meets specification and requirements of the regulations
23. carry out work to required quality and output to meet production schedules and targets
24. identify problems and deal with them according to standard operating

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procedures

25. record information in the appropriate information systems

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

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27. cleaning, care and labelling requirements of fabrics used to make loose covers
28. implications of trimmings in relation to the fire regulations
29. type of problems that can occur and the standard operating procedures for dealing with them
30. information systems that should be used and why it is important to record information

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