

Overview of the role

Assembling and manufacturing mattresses for consumers including hybrid eco-friendly, memory foam, pocket sprung, latex, open coil and continuous coil beds, applying manual and automated techniques.

Contents

Hide menu

1. Key information
2. Occupation summary
3. Typical job titles
4. Occupation duties
5. Knowledge
6. Skills
7. Behaviours
8. Qualifications
9. Consultation
10. Progression Routes
11. Supporting uploads
12. Involved employers

Standard in development

L2: Mattress manufacturing operative

Title of occupation

Mattress manufacturing operative

UOS reference number

ST0981

Core and options

No

Level of occupation

Level 2

Occupational maps data

Route: Engineering and manufacturing

Pathway: Engineering, Manufacturing, Process and Control

Cluster: Manufacturing operative

Typical duration of apprenticeship

15 months

Target date for approval

08/05/2024

Resubmission

Yes

Resubmitted following feedback from IfATE to explore a core and options standard involving Mattress manufacturing operative, Furniture maker operative, and Upholstery operative. The group concluded the core and options did not align and therefore resubmit as a recognised and stand alone occupation.

Would your proposed apprenticeship standard replace an existing framework?

No

Does professional recognition exist for the occupation?

No

Occupation summary

This occupation is found in the furniture, furnishings and interiors manufacturing industry. Mattress manufacturing operatives create a range of mattresses for consumers including memory foam, pocket sprung, latex, open coil, and continuous coil. They may also include hybrid mattress manufacturing combining both springs and foam layers producing more eco-friendly mattresses. They may use recyclable materials and fabrics for the filling of the mattresses impacting on the environment and sustainability. Production ranges from bespoke to mass-produced mattresses. Employers are usually medium to large businesses.

The broad purpose of the occupation is the manufacture of mattresses. Mattress manufacturing operatives cut, sew and prepare materials and set up and operate machinery. Some machinery may be automated. They prepare and conduct operations for quilting, assembly, tape edging, tufting, packing and labelling. They will also perform quality assurance checks on mattresses. They perform first line maintenance on machinery. They read and interpret instructions and complete documentation. They contribute to continuous improvement activities. Mattress manufacturing operatives work in factory environments. The occupation can be physically demanding, involving lifting of heavy mattresses and standing for long periods of time. Mattress manufacturing operatives often work shift systems. Depending on the size of the organisation, they may be required to work on their own, or they may work as part of a wider team. The seasonality of the industry, plus peaks and troughs in orders, often demands overtime working.

In their daily work, an employee in this occupation interacts with a range of colleagues including other Mattress manufacturing operatives, designers, production or manufacturing managers, quality technicians, production leaders and product developers. They usually report to a supervisor or shift team leader. They will be able to work with minimum

supervision.

An employee in this occupation will be responsible for completing their duties in line with company procedures, processes and priorities. They are responsible for meeting production targets. They must take responsibility for the quality, accuracy, and timely completion of the work they undertake. They must work within health, safety and environmental regulations and guidance. They must use the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), tools and equipment. All work must be completed in a safe and efficient manner as directed by supervisory staff. They are responsible for ensuring that they use resources efficiently. They recycle and reuse resources where possible, minimising waste and must include the safe disposal of waste.

Typical job titles

Bed manufacturer Mattress maker Mattress manufacturer Tape edger

Are there any statutory/regulatory or other typical entry requirements?

No

Occupation duties

DUTY	KSBS
Duty 1 Receive, read and interpret job specifications. For example drawings and technical information.	K1 K2 K17 K22 K24 K26 S1 S7 S14 S19 S26 B1
Duty 2 Maintain the work area for health, safety, and environmental compliance before, during, and after the mattress manufacturing activity.	K3 K4 K5 K6 K8 K10 K22 K24 K26 S3 S4 S5 S6 S7 S8 S14 S24 S26 B1 B3 B5
Duty 3 Plan work and resources to complete mattress manufacturing activities.	K1 K3 K4 K6 K7 K9 K17 S2 S3 S4 S8 S12 S14 S19 S23 S25 S26 B1 B2 B3 B4 B5
Duty 4 Organise availability and condition of machinery, tools, equipment and materials.	K4 K5 K7 K9 K10 K12 S3 S4 S7 S8 S9 S12 S23 S25 B1 B3 B4 B5
Duty 5 Perform first line maintenance tasks on mattress manufacturing machinery, tools and equipment. For example, checking, cleaning and lubricating.	K5 K8 K9 K11 K12 K13 S5 S6 S7 S10 S24 B1 B3
Duty 6 Prepare for operation of machinery, power tools, hand tools and equipment used to manufacture mattresses.	K5 K6 K8 K9 K12 K14 S5 S6 S7 S8 S11 S12 S24 B1 B3
Duty 7 Prepare materials for mattress construction. Resolve flaws or issues with materials. For example, cutting, sewing and quilting	K5 K6 K8 K9 K15 K16 K17 K18 K20 S5 S6 S7 S8 S11 S12 S13 S14 S15 S18 S24 B1 B3

DUTY

KSBS

mattress panels and components using hand or automated equipment.

Duty 8 Assemble mattress core. For example, apply the insulator, cushioning layers, springs.

K5 K6 K8 K9 K12 K19
S5 S6 S7 S8 S11 S16 S19 S24
B1 B3

Duty 9 Complete finishes to mattress assembly. For example, tufting, tape edging using hand or automated equipment.

K5 K6 K8 K9 K12 K22
S5 S6 S7 S8 S11 S17 S19 S24
B1 B3

Duty 10 Complete rectification, repair, or rework on mattresses where necessary.

K5 K6 K8 K9 K12 K21
S5 S6 S7 S8 S11 S18 S24
B1 B3

Duty 11 Pack and store completed mattresses and conduct quality assurance checks. Rectify or report issues.

K5 K6 K8 K9 K22 K23
S5 S6 S7 S18 S19 S20 S24
B1 B3

Duty 12 Complete documentation relating to the mattress manufacturing process. For example, job sheets, work to do lists, production records.

K24 K27 K28 K29 K30
S21 S23 S25 S27 S28
B1

Duty 13 Support continuous improvement and problem solving activities. For example, identify issues to address business needs.

K1 K5 K6 K9 K22 K24 K25 K26 K27
S7 S22 S23 S24 S25 S26 S29
B1 B3 B4 B5 B6

KSBS

Knowledge

K1: The furniture industry function and role of the operative. Responsibilities, limits of role and escalation procedures.

K2: Job specifications, technical drawings and technical information.

K3: Planning for mattress manufacturing activity, work organisation, resources, materials and time management.

K4: Safe systems of work including risk assessments.

K5: Awareness of health and safety regulations, standards, and guidance and impact on role. Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH). Fire safety. Health and Safety at Work Act. Isolation and emergency stop procedures. Manual handling. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Safety equipment: guards, signage, fire extinguishers. Safety signage. Situational awareness. Slips, trips, and falls. Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER) and Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR).

K6: Environment and sustainability regulation, standards and guidance relevant to the occupation and the operative's responsibilities. Efficient use of resources. Recycling, reuse and safe disposal of waste.

K7: Preparation and maintenance of the work area.

K8: Workplace operating procedures. What they are and why they are important.

K9: Tools and equipment used in mattress manufacturing.

K10: Storage environment, for tools and equipment.

K11: Maintenance of tools and equipment including pre-checks, inspections and tool condition.

K12: Machinery used in mattress manufacturing.

K13: Maintenance of machinery for mattress manufacturing activity including cleaning and lubrication.

K14: Setting up machinery to perform mattress manufacturing operations.

K15: Types of materials and fillings used in mattress manufacturing.

K16: ~~Methods of preparing materials for mattress manufacturing.~~

K17: Measuring and marking out of materials. Calibration of measurement tools and equipment.

K18: Mattress pre-construction processes, including cutting, sewing, quilting, hand side stitching and panel cutting.

K19: Methods of assembly for core mattress types: memory foam, pocket sprung, latex, open coil, and continuous coil.

K20: Mattress finishing techniques: tufting, tape edging.

K21: Rectification and rework techniques used on mattresses.

K22: Methods for the handling and movement of mattresses.

K23: Quality assurance processes.

K24: Methods of documenting work in progress for the mattress manufacturing activity.

K25: Continuous improvement techniques: lean manufacturing, six sigma, 5S, KAIZEN.

K26: Team working principles.

K27: Principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion in the workplace and the impact on their work.

K28: Verbal communication techniques. Giving and receiving information.

K29: Written communication techniques - electronic and paper. Industry terminology.

K30: Information and digital technology: email, collaboration packages, databases, equipment digital interfaces, management information systems, word processing, work sharing platforms, GDPR, cyber security.

Skills

S1: Read and interpret job specifications, technical drawings or information for mattress manufacturing activity.

S2: Plan mattress manufacturing activity including timescales for completion, and organise materials and resources.

S3: Prepare and maintain the work area.

S4: Apply safe systems of working including risk assessment.

S5: Follow health and safety regulations, standards, and guidance.

S6: Follow procedures in line with environmental and sustainability regulations, standards, and guidance. Segregate resources for reuse, recycling and disposal.

S7: Follow workplace operating procedures.

S8: Store tools and equipment.

S9: Select tools, equipment, and machinery for mattress manufacturing activity.

S10: Apply first line maintenance of tools, equipment and machinery. For example, checking tool condition, cleaning, lubrication, visual inspection, tool calibration.

S11: Set up and operate mattress manufacturing machinery. For example, spring making, quilting, tape edging, panel cutting, tufting machines.

S12: Identify and select materials and fillings used in mattress manufacturing.

S13: Apply preparation techniques to materials.

S14: Measure and mark out materials including measurement tool calibration checks.

- S15:** Identify and sort components and perform hand side stitching for mattress manufacture.
- S15a:** Identify and sort components and sew borders and labels.
- S15b:** Apply quilting techniques for mattress manufacture.
- S16:** Assemble core mattress and mattress components, for example spring units and fillings, open coil and continuous coil
- S17:** Finish mattresses, including tufting, and tape edging mattresses..
- S18:** Carry out rectification, repair or rework of mattress assembly.
- S19:** Follow quality assurance processes.
- S20:** Pack and store mattresses.
- S21:** Record mattress manufacturing activity information - paper based or electronic.
- S22:** Apply basic continuous improvement techniques. For example, lean manufacturing, six sigma, 5S, and KAIZEN.
- S23:** Apply team working principles.
- S24:** Apply escalation procedures in relation to faults or issues.
- S25:** Follow equity, diversity and inclusion rules.
- S26:** Communicate verbally with colleagues and supervisors.
- S27:** Communicate in writing with colleagues and supervisors using industry terminology electronically or paper based.
- S28:** Use information technology and digital systems. Comply with GDPR and cyber security regulations and policies.
- S29:** Undertake and record learning and development activities.

Behaviours

- B1:** Put health and safety first.
- B2:** Take ownership of given work.
- B3:** Consider the impact on the environment when using resources and carrying out work.
- B4:** Team-focus to meet work goals.
- B5:** Support an inclusive workplace for example, respectful of different views.
- B6:** Seek learning and development opportunities.

Qualifications

English and Maths

English and maths qualifications form a mandatory part of all apprenticeships and must be completed before an apprentice can pass through gateway. The requirements are detailed in the current version of the [apprenticeship funding rules](#).

Does the apprenticeship need to include any mandated qualifications in addition to the above-mentioned English and maths qualifications?

No

Consultation

Underway

Progression Routes

ST0639 Bespoke furniture maker L3

ST0656 Advanced upholsterer L3

ST0515 Manufacturing manager (integrated degree) L6

Supporting uploads

Mandatory qualification uploads

Mandated degree evidence uploads

Professional body confirmation uploads

Involved employers

Jay-Be, Furmanac, Vispring, Shire Beds, Millbrook, Sleepzee, Relyon, Harrison Spinks, Hypnos, Airsprung Beds, Dreams

Subject sector area

4.2 Manufacturing technologies