

Apprenticeship Standard for Bespoke Furniture Maker

Occupational Profile

This occupation is found in the furniture, furnishings and interiors industry. The broad purpose of the occupation is to design, produce & assemble bespoke pieces of furniture to meet customers' requirements. This can cover pieces such as tables, chairs, cabinets, lounge suites, office furniture & kitchens and bedrooms.

In their daily work, an employee in this occupation interacts with a range of colleagues including production/manufacturing managers, quality technicians, production leaders, designers and product developers. Bespoke Furniture Makers will work alone or within small teams with other makers and will be responsible for liaising with colleagues, suppliers and customers. They tend to work in small craft workshops but can also work in larger factories.

An employee in this occupation will be responsible for creating 3D design and visualisation, understanding and defining materials, construction methods and product specifications. It also covers defining production processes, identifying limitations relating to process, end uses, setting timescales and costings. Making the design using machinery and hand production techniques. They work with a variety of materials – including (wood, metals, glass, plastics, fabric, finishes and other relevant materials.

Typical job titles are Bespoke Furniture Maker, Furniture Maker, Designer Maker, Cabinet Maker

Duties: Knowledge, Skills and Behaviours

Duty 1

In this occupation a fully competent employee can:

work safely at all times following relevant legislation and regulations ensuring self and others safety

Knowledge	Skills	Behaviours
Understands health, safety and environmental management and risk assessment.	Work safely at all times.	Ensures safety of self and others

Duty 2

In this occupation a fully competent employee can:

Design bespoke pieces of furniture

Knowledge	Skills
Know how to create 3D design and visualisations, mock ups and prototypes (traditional or digital)	Create 3D design and visualisations, mock ups and prototypes (traditional or digital)

Duty 3

In this occupation a fully competent employee can:

define materials, construction methods and product specifications.

Knowledge	Skills
Detailed knowledge of industry materials, covering modern and traditional methods, initial design to customer 'site'	Define materials, construction methods and product specifications
Understanding and defining materials, construction methods, product specifications	Setting timescales and costings – project planner (feasibility)

Duty 4

In this occupation a fully competent employee can:

define production processes, identify limitations relating to process and end uses

Knowledge	Skills
Know how to identify limitations relating to process and end uses	Define production processes for pieces to be produced
	Identify limitations of designs and products

Duty 5

In this occupation a fully competent employee can:

Make furniture designs using machinery and hand production techniques

Knowledge	Skills	Behaviours
Know how to design, produce & assemble bespoke pieces of furniture	Design, produce & assemble bespoke pieces of furniture	Integrity, aims for excellence and manages time effectively and quality excellence
Understand quality standards and how to meet time constraints	Meet quality standards and time constraints	Takes personal responsibility for meeting the business objectives

Duty 6

In this occupation a fully competent employee can:

Interpret, maintain and realise customer expectations

Knowledge	Skills	Behaviours
Know how to interpret, maintain and realise customer expectations	Interpret and meet customers' requirements	Effective communicator at all levels
	Deliver excellent customer service	Flexible in changing environment and demands, staying solutions focused in workshop practices
	Realise, manage and maintain customer expectations	

Duty 7

In this occupation a fully competent employee can:

operate furniture production equipment and (traditional or digital) machinery

Knowledge	Skills
Know how to configure and operate furniture production equipment and (traditional or digital) machinery	Configure and operate furniture production equipment and (traditional or digital) machinery
Know how to deal with furniture production problems / equipment breakdown	Deal with furniture production problems / equipment breakdown
Know how to create advanced and complex jigs	Advanced and complex jig creation, angled and curved work

Duty 8

In this occupation a fully competent employee can:

Install complex bespoke work on site

Knowledge	Skills
Know how to install bespoke work on site	Install complex bespoke work on site.
Know how to conduct site surveys and establish technical specifications	Survey sites and establish technical specifications. (drawing up rods or making templates) design drawings – constraints

Entry Requirements

Set by individual employers, entry requirements will typically include a minimum of 5 GCSE grades A* - C or 9-4 (or equivalent qualifications)

Duration

Typically this apprenticeship will take 24 months to complete.

Qualifications

Apprentices without level 2 English and maths will need to achieve this level prior to taking the end-point assessment.

Level

This is a level 3 apprenticeship.

Review Date

After 3 years.