Sewing Machine

Introduction

The modern sewing machine has many features and are easy and convenient to use. Ideal for sewing quilts, crafts and garments, these machine offer practical and decorative stitches plus an easy-to-sew buttonhole.

And every stitch is perfectly balanced and evenly placed right where you want it. Stitch selection is fast and easy. Some machines tell you which presser foot, stitch length and width, and needle position you'll need for the best result.

There's also a handy thread cutter, a bobbin winder you can't overfill, and a host of other features that make sewing simple and fun.

Identified Risks and Hazards

Hazards that may be encountered when conducting sewing activities include:

- cuts and injuries from sharp edges, knife blades, scissors and pins
- burns electrocution
- finger injuries while sewing
- back injury from poor posture
- eye strain from poor lighting
- back injury from improper lifting procedures

Pre-operational Safety

The following safety checks and precautions should be carried out when preparing to set up and use the sewing machine in the textiles area:

- Ensure you have had instruction and training in the use the sewing machine .
- The sewing machine should be turned off and isolated from the main electricity supply when not in use.
- The operator should seek permission from the supervisor before using the sewing machine.
- Always check that the sewing machine and its cord are in good
working order.
- Check all adjustments and settings carefully before commencing any sewing operation.
- The work area should be clean and free of equipment, rubbish and other obstacles

### Operating Safety Precautions

Make sure all other students keep away from the immediate work area at all times.

Do not wear loose clothing, especially long sleeves and neck ties.

Remove the cover from the sewing machine and place it on the back of the chair before use.

One person only is to operate a sewing machine at any time.

Do not touch a sewing machine whilst another person is operating it.

Turn the power off when making adjustments to the sewing machine eg. changing the presser foot and the needle.

Never race the sewing machine at high speed.

Take care not to machine over pins.

Make sure the take-up lever is in the upper most position before pulling out the fabric and cutting threads.

### Daily Maintenance

#### Cleaning
It is important to keep the machine as free of lint as possible.

#### Shining
Wipe the surface of the machine with a clean, soft, damp cloth. Do not use abrasives on your machine and do not place pieces of tape on it. Seam guides can be purchased from your dealer. Clean the LCD screen with a soft, damp cloth and never use alcohol or solvents on the machine.

#### Storage
Avoid exposing the sewing machine to extreme temperatures. Do not store it in a room that is cold, hot, or humid. Cover the machine when not in to keep dust and lint to a minimum.

Isolating and Lockout Switches
Electrically operated machines should be fitted with a flush **green on** or **start switch** and a **red stop switch** that has a raised mushroom shaped head for fast emergency contact. As well as start and stop switches, all machines must have an **isolating switch**, which enables the main power supply to be switched off when the machine is being set up, adjusted or when maintenance is being carried out.

Operating Procedures and Precautions

**Electrical Currents**
Do not use the machine during a thunderstorm and unplug your machine when not in use at any time.

**Fabric flow**
Do not push or pull fabric while sewing. Let the machine do the work—your hands should guide the fabric without forcing it.

**Needle and Thread**
Your supervisor will replace the needle as necessary. If the needle is broken, report it.

**Pins**
Do not sew over pins. Not only will this blunt or dull the needle, it can also cause timing problems if the needle strikes a pin hard enough to affect the alignment of the needle bar.