

## Seam Sealing Process

The seam sealing process has proven to be a valued and welcome solution for the healthcare market in the ongoing effort to better address housekeeping and infection control challenges.

The seam sealing process increases the strength and integrity of the seam, provides additional protection against moisture penetration through the seams and can prevent insects from entering the interior of the upholstered piece through the seams.

Both the end user, infection control and designers see the significant value of heat sealing the seams. As a result, this process has become one of the most popular solutions offered on Globalcare products.



Primacare HT with sealed seams application at St-Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton West 5th Campus

## The Seam Sealing Process: Pass and Fail

A tape is heat sealed to the back of the upholstery seams creating the following benefits:

- Increases the strength and integrity of the seam
- Reduces the rate at which moisture will be drawn from the surface by blocking the stitch holes
- Helps prevent bed bugs from entering product interior through the seams

Testing must be conducted on every textile and approval must be confirmed **before** acceptance of any order requesting sealed seams.

### OPTIONS:

- Seat seams **only**
- **All** seams sealed

Pricing is based on a linear per yard cost. Every product has varying amounts of stitching, therefore upcharges must be obtained from Global Customer Service. These prices are not published.

The upholstery selection is an important factor when using the sealed seam process. Not all textiles respond the same way when the tape is applied. The following process has been implemented due to those differences. The approval process should be initiated as soon as a textile has been identified for use with sealed seams.

## UNDERSTANDING PASS AND FAIL RESULTS

To create a clear understanding and measure for a pass or fail rating.

### PASS RESULT:

The sealed seam process has created **no** visual signs, evidence or change to the appearance of the textile surface by the seams, resulting in a pass rating. A confirmed pass means no further steps are required. The order will be processed.

### FAIL RESULT:

The sealed seam process **has created a visual change** to the appearance of the textile surface by the seams, resulting in a fail rating. The change in appearance on the textile surface varies from one textile to another and from minor to problematic.

The fail may be minimal and the client may wish to proceed as the benefit is greater than the visual results. The process to proceed is detailed below.

### STEP 1:

Contact your Global Customer Service Representative and provide the complete details on the selected textile.

You will be advised:

- a) **No testing** has been conducted on the identified textile
- b) **Testing was conducted** and the identified textile has a **pass** or **fail** result

**Tested** and **pass result** means that all is good to go and the order will proceed.

## STEP 2:

Selected textile has not been tested. Two forms have been prepared for a textile to be tested for sealed seams. Be sure to select the correct form. Visit the Dealer Centre in Globalcare's Sealed Seams section to obtain the forms:

- GLO-211 GPM Sealed Seam Form
- GLO-213 COM Sealed Seam Form
- GLO-212 Waiver Sealed Seam Form

### GLO-211 GPM Sealed Seam Form

**GPM** (Global Purchased Material) – a textile that will be graded in by Global. Global will order the fabric for testing.

### GLO-213 COM Sealed Seam Form

**COM** (Customers Own Material) – a textile that is purchased by someone other than Global. The fabric sample must be submitted with the completed form. Global does not purchase or make those arrangements.

Send to:

Global Quality Assurance Department  
Attention: Bernardette Borg  
850 Alness St.  
Toronto, Ontario M3J 2Y7  
Tel. 416.661.3660 ext. 4686  
Email [bborg@globalfurnituregroup.com](mailto:bborg@globalfurnituregroup.com)

## RESULTS & ACTION STEPS

Upon receiving the textile for testing, a sample will be made up. Based on the results, the sample will be given a **pass** or **fail** rating. Please allow 2 weeks for images to be produced.

### PASS RESULT

**Tested** and **pass result** means that all is good to go and the order will proceed.

### FAIL RESULT

An image of the tested textile seam showing the visual change to the appearance of the textile surface by the seams will be provided if requested. The end-user can decide to proceed with the textile selection if they assess the visual change as not being problematic by signing **GLO-212 Waiver Sealed Seam** form.

Please follow the steps on the waiver form, return as directed and attach a copy of the signed waiver to the order. This will allow for the order to be released.

If the initial image of the sample, showing the visual change to the appearance of the textile surface by the seams, does not provide enough evidence to make a decision then a **mini cushion sample** can be requested. Please send the request to [bborg@globalfurnituregroup.com](mailto:bborg@globalfurnituregroup.com). Please allow 2 weeks for the mini cushion to be produced.

If satisfied with the results of the sealed seam on the mini cushion. The client must sign the **GLO-212 Waiver Sealed Seam** form. The signed waiver must be submitted with the order for the order to be released. An alternate textile selection will be required if the visual change to the textile surface by the seams is unacceptable or problematic.