

SSAPP25 On-Demand Print Operator

1. Job role

TCF sub-sector	Apparel production
Functional area	Manufacturing – Printing, Decoration and Surface Finishing
Job role	SSAPP25 On-Demand Print Operator
Job role description	Produces customised and short-run printed garments linked to online or customer-specific orders using digital textile printing systems and integrated production workflows. In apparel production—where e-commerce and mass customisation are increasingly important—the On-Demand Print Operator receives and processes digital orders, prepares artwork files, operates DTG/DTF printing systems and coordinates with fulfilment processes to ensure accurate, timely and high-quality output.
Performance expectations	- Producing customised garments that meet order specifications and quality standards - Maintaining accuracy in design, placement and order details - Processing orders efficiently to meet turnaround times - Operating digital printing equipment safely and effectively - Minimising errors, rework and order discrepancies - Ensuring correct file preparation and workflow integration - Maintaining consistency in print quality and finish - Supporting seamless integration between ordering, production and dispatch - Maintaining equipment performance and reporting faults - Following workplace safety and operational procedures
Specialisation	DTG printing, DTF printing, e-commerce integration, order processing systems, mass customisation workflows
Application in other TCF sectors	- Apparel production supporting e-commerce and custom garment printing - Textile manufacturing supporting short-run and customised fabric production - Promotional product manufacturing supporting personalised products - Uniform and workwear production supporting individualised branding - Footwear and accessories supporting custom printed components - Manufacturing and service industries supporting on-demand production models

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	• Receiving and processing online or customer-specific orders • Preparing digital artwork files for printing • Setting up and operating digital textile printing systems • Loading garments and preparing materials • Monitoring print quality and adjusting settings • Inspecting printed products against order specifications • Coordinating with packing and dispatch functions • Maintaining production records and tracking orders
Critical work functions	• Ensuring accuracy of individualised orders and customisation • Maintaining consistency in print quality across small batches • Meeting fast turnaround times for on-demand production • Preventing errors in order processing and fulfilment • Maintaining integration between digital systems and production • Supporting efficient and flexible production workflows • Ensuring safe and compliant equipment operation

3. Technical skills

Digital printing systems	Operating DTG, DTF and related printing equipment
Order processing systems	Using e-commerce and order management platforms
Artwork preparation	Preparing files for print using appropriate formats and settings
Colour management	Ensuring colour accuracy and consistency
Workflow integration	Integrating order systems with production processes
Quality control	Inspecting output against specifications
Machine maintenance	Maintaining and troubleshooting printing equipment

4. Generic Skills

Attention to detail	Ensuring accuracy in customised orders
Time management	Meeting fast production and dispatch timelines
Technical aptitude	Working with digital systems and equipment
Problem solving	Resolving print or order issues
Communication	Coordinating with production and dispatch teams
Customer focus	Ensuring products meet customer expectations

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	• Using automated order-to-production workflows • Integrating with real-time e-commerce systems • Applying AI-assisted artwork and order processing • Supporting mass customisation at scale • Using production tracking and analytics systems • Applying sustainable printing practices
-----------------	---

6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

Entry-level preparation	ICP20120 Certificate II in Printing and Graphic Arts or equivalent
Advanced development	ICP31220 Certificate III in Printing or equivalent

7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Production Assistant → On-Demand Print Operator → Senior Operator → Production Supervisor → Production Manager
--------------------------	--

8. Classification

Australian Qualifications Framework	AQF Level 2-3
Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Skill Levels	Skill Level 3
Open Source Classification of Occupations for Australia (OSCA)	Textile or Garment Worker - Digital / On-Demand Printing



Skills Insight is a Jobs and Skills Council funded by the Australian Government Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.