

SSAPP32 Knitting Machine Operator – Flatbed

1. Job role

TCF sub-sector	Apparel
Functional area	Knitwear Production
Job role	SSAPP32 Knitting Machine Operator – Flatbed
Job role description	Operates flatbed knitting machines used to produce knitted garment panels, accessories and textile components in knitwear manufacturing. The role involves setting up machines, loading yarns, monitoring knitting programs and ensuring knitted products meet required design and quality specifications. Flatbed knitting machines are widely used in the production of shaped knitwear components, fashion knitwear and technical knitted textiles.
Performance expectations	• Operate flatbed knitting machines safely and efficiently • Load yarn packages and prepare machines for production • Monitor knitting operations and machine performance • Ensure knitted panels meet design specifications and measurements • Identify knitting faults such as dropped stitches or yarn breakage • Adjust machine settings to maintain knitting quality • Maintain production output and minimise machine downtime • Maintain safe, clean and organised machine work areas
Specialisation	Flatbed knitting machine operation, knitwear panel production, yarn feed management and shaped knitwear component manufacturing.
Application in other TCF sectors	• Textile production environments using flatbed knitting technologies • Technical textile production using knitted structures • Footwear manufacturing using knitted components • Apparel manufacturing environments incorporating knitted materials

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	• Set up flatbed knitting machines for production runs • Load yarn packages and thread machines correctly • Operate machines to produce knitted garment panels • Monitor knitting operations and yarn feed during production • Inspect knitted panels for defects or irregularities • Adjust machine settings to maintain knitting quality • Record production output and machine performance • Perform routine machine cleaning and maintenance
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Critical work functions	- Ensuring knitted panels match garment design specifications - Maintaining consistent knitting quality and fabric structure - Minimising yarn waste and machine downtime - Preventing knitting faults and machine errors - Supporting efficient knitwear production operations - Ensuring knitted components are suitable for downstream garment assembly
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3. Technical skills

Flatbed knitting machine operation	Operate machines used to produce shaped knitwear panels.
Yarn handling	Load and manage yarn feeds during knitting operations.
Machine setup	Prepare machines for different garment styles and yarn types.
Knitting pattern monitoring	Monitor knitting sequences and stitch formation.
Panel inspection	Inspect knitted panels for structural and visual defects.
Machine adjustment	Adjust machine settings to maintain knitting quality.
Production monitoring	Track machine performance and production output.
Workplace safety	Follow WHS procedures when operating textile machinery.

4. Generic Skills

Attention to detail	Ensure knitted panels meet required quality standards.
Problem solving	Identify and resolve knitting machine faults.
Communication	Report production issues and machine faults.
Teamwork	Work collaboratively within textile production teams.
Time management	Maintain production schedules and machine utilisation.
Organisation	Maintain tidy and efficient machine work areas.

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	- Advanced computerised flatbed knitting machines - Digital knitwear design integration - Automated knitting machine monitoring systems - Sustainable knitwear manufacturing technologies - Integration of knitting machines with digital production systems
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6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

Entry-level preparation	MEM10119 Certificate I in Engineering or equivalent
Advanced development	MEM31822 Certificate III in Engineering - Textile Mechanic or equivalent

7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Knitting Machine Assistant → Flatbed Knitting Machine Operator → Senior Knitwear Technician → Knitwear Production Supervisor
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8. Classification

Australian Qualifications Framework	AQF Level 2
Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Skill Levels	Skill Level 4 - Textile Production Machine Operator
Open Source Classification of Occupations for Australia (OSCA)	Knitting Machine Operator - Flatbed



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