

SSAPP34 Knitting Machine Operator – Circular

1. Job role

TCF sub-sector	Apparel
Functional area	Knitwear Production
Job role	SSAPP34 Knitting Machine Operator – Circular
Job role description	Operates circular knitting machines used to produce knitted fabrics and tubular knit structures for use in garments and textile products. The role involves preparing machines for production, loading yarn packages, monitoring knitting processes and ensuring knitted fabrics meet required quality and production specifications. Circular knitting machines are widely used in the production of knitwear fabrics, sportswear materials and technical textiles.
Performance expectations	• Operate circular knitting machines safely and efficiently • Load yarn packages and prepare machines for knitting production • Monitor knitting processes and machine performance • Ensure knitted fabrics meet design and quality specifications • Identify knitting faults such as dropped stitches or yarn breakage • Adjust machine settings to maintain knitting quality • Maintain production output and minimise downtime • Maintain clean and organised machine work areas
Specialisation	Circular knitting machine operation, tubular knit fabric production, yarn feed management and knitted textile manufacturing.
Application in other TCF sectors	• Textile production of sportswear and activewear fabrics • Technical textile manufacturing using circular knitting technology • Apparel manufacturing environments using knitted fabrics

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	• Set up circular knitting machines for production runs • Load yarn packages and thread machines correctly • Operate knitting machines to produce knitted fabrics • Monitor machine operation and yarn feed during knitting • Inspect knitted fabrics for defects or irregularities • Adjust machine settings to maintain knitting quality • Record production output and machine performance • Perform routine machine cleaning and maintenance
Critical work functions	• Ensuring knitted fabrics meet design and quality specifications

	• Maintaining consistent fabric structure and knitting quality • Minimising yarn waste and machine downtime • Preventing knitting faults and machine errors • Supporting efficient textile production operations • Ensuring fabrics are suitable for downstream finishing and garment manufacturing
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3. Technical skills

Circular knitting machine operation	Operate machines used to produce tubular knitted fabrics.
Yarn handling	Load and manage yarn feeds during knitting operations.
Machine setup	Prepare machines for different fabric structures and yarn types.
Knitting pattern monitoring	Monitor knitting sequences and stitch formation.
Fabric inspection	Inspect knitted fabrics for defects and irregularities.
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 fabrics 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 circular knitting machines • Automated machine monitoring systems • Integration of knitting machines with digital production systems • Sustainable textile manufacturing technologies • Data-driven textile production management
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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 → Circular Knitting Machine Operator → Senior Knitwear Technician → Textile Production Supervisor
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8. Classification

Australian Qualifications Framework	AQF Level 2-4
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 - Circular



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