

SSAPP35 Knitting Machine Operator – Fully Fashioned

1. Job role

TCF sub-sector	Apparel
Functional area	Knitwear Production
Job role	SSAPP35 Knitting Machine Operator – Fully Fashioned
Job role description	Operates fully fashioned knitting machines used to produce shaped knitwear components such as sleeves, fronts, backs and collars. The role involves setting up machines, loading yarns, monitoring knitting operations and ensuring knitted panels meet garment design specifications. Fully fashioned knitting technology produces shaped garment panels during the knitting process, reducing cutting and improving material efficiency.
Performance expectations	• Operate fully fashioned knitting machines safely and efficiently • Load yarn packages and prepare machines for knitting production • Monitor knitting operations and machine performance • Ensure knitted panels meet garment specifications and measurements • Identify knitting faults such as dropped stitches or yarn breakage • Adjust machine settings to maintain knitting quality • Maintain production efficiency and minimise downtime • Maintain clean and organised knitting machine work areas
Specialisation	Fully fashioned knitting machine operation, knitwear panel production, yarn handling and shaped garment component manufacturing.
Application in other TCF sectors	• Textile production environments producing knitted components • Technical textile production using knitting technologies • Footwear manufacturing using knitted uppers • Apparel manufacturing incorporating knitted garment components

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	• Set up fully fashioned knitting machines for production runs • Load yarn packages and thread machines correctly • Operate knitting machines to produce shaped garment panels • Monitor machine operation and yarn feed during knitting • Inspect knitted panels for defects and irregularities • Adjust machine settings to maintain knitting quality
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	- Record production output and machine performance - Perform routine cleaning and maintenance of machines
Critical work functions	- Ensuring knitted panels match garment design specifications - Maintaining consistent knitting quality and panel shape - Minimising yarn waste and production downtime - Preventing knitting faults and machine errors - Supporting efficient knitwear production operations - Ensuring knitted components are ready for garment assembly

3. Technical skills

Fully fashioned 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 specific garment styles and sizes.
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 design and quality specifications.
Problem solving	Identify and resolve knitting machine faults.
Communication	Report production issues and machine faults.
Teamwork	Work collaboratively within knitwear 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 knitting machine technologies - Integration of digital design files with knitting machines - Automated machine monitoring systems - Sustainable knitwear manufacturing processes - Digital production management 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 → Fully Fashioned 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 - Fully Fashioned



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