

SSAPP37 Slitting and Stenting Operator

1. Job role

TCF sub-sector	Apparel
Functional area	Finishing and Dispatch
Job role	SSAPP37 Slitting and Stenting Operator [Knitwear]
Job role description	Operates slitting and stentering equipment used in the processing and finishing of knitted fabrics after they have been dyed in knitwear textile manufacturing. The role involves opening tubular knitted fabrics through slitting operations and stabilising fabric width and dimensional properties using stenter frames. The operator monitors machine settings including fabric tension, heat and airflow to ensure knitted fabrics meet required width, stability and finishing specifications before garment manufacturing or further textile processing.
Performance expectations	• Operate slitting equipment to open tubular knitted fabrics accurately • Operate stenter frames to stabilise fabric width and dimensional properties • Monitor machine settings including tension, heat and airflow • Ensure finished fabrics meet production quality specifications • Identify and report fabric defects or machine faults • Maintain safe machine operation and workplace practices • Meet production throughput targets • Maintain clean and organised textile processing areas
Specialisation	Knitted fabric slitting operations, stenter frame operation, textile drying and stabilisation processes and knitted fabric finishing prior to garment production.
Application in other Textile, Clothing and Footwear (TCF) sectors	• Textile manufacturing and fabric processing operations • Knitwear textile production using circular knitting technologies • Textile dyeing and finishing facilities where fabric stabilisation is required • Technical textile production environments requiring fabric finishing

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	• Load knitted fabrics onto slitting machines • Operate blades and guides to slit tubular knitted fabrics • Feed fabrics through stenter frames for drying and stabilisation • Adjust machine settings to control fabric width and tension • Monitor temperature and airflow during fabric drying
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	- Inspect fabrics for defects during processing - Maintain machine cleanliness and perform routine checks - Record production parameters and output data
Critical work functions	- Ensuring knitted fabrics achieve correct width and dimensional stability - Maintaining consistent textile finishing quality - Preventing distortion or damage to fabrics during processing - Supporting efficient knitwear textile production operations - Monitoring equipment performance and processing conditions - Ensuring fabrics are suitable for downstream garment production

3. Technical skills

Slitting machine operation	Operate textile slitting equipment to open tubular knitted fabrics
Stenter frame operation	Operate stenter frames to stabilise fabric width and shape
Fabric tension control	Adjust machine settings to maintain correct tension and fabric alignment
Temperature and drying control	Monitor heat and airflow used during stentering
Knitted fabric handling	Handle knitted fabrics carefully to prevent stretching or distortion
Fabric inspection	Identify knitting faults or finishing defects
Machine monitoring	Monitor equipment performance and report mechanical issues
Workplace safety	Apply WHS procedures when operating textile processing machinery

4. Generic Skills

Attention to detail	Ensure fabrics meet width, quality and finishing specifications
Time management	Maintain efficient textile processing cycles
Communication	Report defects, faults or production issues
Teamwork	Work collaboratively with textile processing and production teams
Reliability	Follow processing procedures and production schedules
Organisation	Maintain orderly and safe processing work areas

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	- Automated stenter frame control systems - Digital monitoring of textile processing parameters - Energy-efficient textile drying technologies - Data-driven textile quality monitoring - Integration of finishing machinery 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	Textile Processing Operator → Slitting and Stentering Operator → Senior Textile Technician → Textile Production Supervisor
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8. Classification

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



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