

SSAPP41 Screen Print Operator

1. Job role

TCF sub-sector	Apparel production
Functional area	Manufacturing – Printing, Decoration and Surface Finishing
Job role	SSAPP41 Screen Print Operator
Job role description	Applies printed designs to garments and textile products using manual or automated screen printing techniques to meet design specifications, production requirements and quality standards. In apparel production—where screen printing remains a widely used and scalable decoration method—the Screen Print Operator prepares screens, inks and materials, operates printing equipment and ensures consistent, high-quality output across production runs. The role supports both bulk production and customised applications.
Performance expectations	- Producing prints that meet design specifications and quality standards - Maintaining consistency in print registration, colour and finish - Operating screen printing equipment efficiently and safely - Preparing garments and materials correctly for printing - Minimising defects, rework and material waste - Meeting production targets and timelines - Ensuring correct ink preparation and colour matching - Maintaining equipment performance and reporting faults - Following workplace safety and operational procedures - Supporting efficient production workflow
Specialisation (optional)	Manual screen printing, automatic screen printing, multi-colour printing, ink formulation, print registration, production printing
Application in other Textile, Clothing and Footwear (TCF) sectors	- Apparel production supporting garment decoration and branding - Textile manufacturing supporting printed fabrics and materials - Footwear production supporting printed components and branding - Leather goods production supporting decorative printing - Promotional product manufacturing supporting customised printed items - Uniform and workwear production supporting logos and identification - Manufacturing industries supporting screen printing applications

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	- Preparing screens, stencils and artwork for printing - Mixing inks and matching colours to specifications
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	• Setting up and operating manual or automated screen printing machines • Aligning garments and ensuring correct print placement • Monitoring print quality and making adjustments • Drying or curing printed garments • Inspecting finished products for defects and consistency • Maintaining equipment and work areas
Critical work functions	• Ensuring accurate print registration and alignment • Maintaining consistent colour and print quality • Preventing defects such as misprints, smudging or ink issues • Meeting production deadlines and efficiency targets • Maintaining quality control across production runs • Supporting efficient workflow in production environments • Ensuring safe and compliant operation of equipment

3. Technical skills

Screen preparation	Preparing screens and stencils for printing
Ink mixing and colour matching	Mixing inks and achieving accurate colour reproduction
Printing equipment operation	Operating manual and automated screen printing machines
Print registration	Aligning multi-colour prints accurately
Curing and drying processes	Applying appropriate curing techniques for durability
Quality inspection	Inspecting printed products for defects and consistency
Equipment maintenance	Maintaining and troubleshooting printing equipment

4. Generic Skills

Attention to detail	Ensuring precision in print alignment and quality
Manual dexterity	Handling materials and equipment accurately
Time management	Meeting production deadlines and output targets
Problem solving	Resolving printing and equipment issues
Communication	Working with production and design teams
Quality focus	Maintaining high standards of output

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	• Using automated and high-speed screen printing systems • Integrating screen printing with digital workflows • Applying sustainable inks and environmentally friendly processes • Supporting hybrid printing systems (screen + digital) • Using production monitoring and quality tracking systems • Adapting to short-run and customised production models
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6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

Entry-level preparation	ICPSS00011 Screen Printing Skill Set or equivalent
Advanced development	MST40122 Certificate IV in Textile Design and Technology

7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Production Assistant → Screen Print Operator → Senior Print Operator → Production Supervisor → Production Manager
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8. Classification

Australian Qualifications Framework	AQF Level 2-4
Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Skill Levels	Skill Level 3
Open Source Classification of Occupations for Australia (OSCA)	Textile or Garment Worker - Screen Printing



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