

SSBIO03 Alterations and Adjustment Specialist – Biomedical Garments

1. Job role

TCF sub-sector	Biomedical Textiles
Functional area	Manufacturing – Rehabilitation, Compression and Disability Support Textiles Production
Job role	SSBIO03 Alterations and Adjustment Specialist – Biomedical Garments
Job role description	Performs precise alterations, modifications and adjustments to biomedical garments to ensure correct anatomical fit, therapeutic compression and functional performance in line with clinical prescriptions and patient needs. In the Australian biomedical textiles sector—where garments such as compression therapy products, orthopaedic supports and post-surgical wear must meet strict clinical and regulatory standards—the Alterations and Adjustment Specialist plays a critical role in ensuring final product accuracy and effectiveness. The role involves modifying pre-manufactured or custom garments to accommodate patient-specific requirements, including anatomical variations, medical conditions and comfort considerations. The position operates at the intersection of production and clinical application, working closely with Compression Garment Fitting Specialists, Digital Pattern Makers and clinical professionals to refine garment fit after initial production. Adjustments may include seam alterations, panel reshaping, tension balancing and closure modifications to achieve correct pressure gradients and mobility outcomes.
Performance expectations	• Delivering highly accurate garment alterations aligned to clinical prescriptions • Ensuring correct compression levels and anatomical fit after adjustment • Maintaining garment integrity and therapeutic performance • Minimising rework, waste and product rejection • Responding effectively to fitting feedback and clinical input • Maintaining detailed records of alterations and adjustments • Ensuring compliance with quality, hygiene and regulatory requirements • Supporting positive patient outcomes through garment performance

Specialisation	Compression garment adjustment, seam and panel modification, pressure gradient correction, custom garment alteration, clinical fit refinement
Application in other TCF sectors	• Orthotics and prosthetics fabrication • Technical apparel and performance wear alteration • Defence and protective garment modification • Custom tailoring and advanced garment engineering • Wearable medical device integration

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	• Assessing garment fit issues based on fitting feedback or clinical input • Performing alterations to seams, panels and closures • Adjusting garments to achieve required compression levels • Modifying garment structure for improved comfort and mobility • Reconstructing sections of garments where required • Collaborating with fitting specialists and clinicians • Recording alteration details and maintaining traceability • Ensuring garments remain compliant with specifications after adjustment
Critical work functions	• Ensuring garments deliver prescribed therapeutic compression • Maintaining anatomical accuracy and patient comfort • Preserving product integrity during modification • Preventing garment failure or ineffective treatment outcomes • Supporting efficient turnaround of custom and adjusted garments • Maintaining traceability of modifications for compliance purposes • Enabling integration between clinical assessment and manufacturing correction

3. Technical skills

Garment alteration techniques	Modifying seams, panels and garment structure
Compression adjustment	Adjusting garments to achieve correct pressure gradients
Textile construction knowledge	Understanding garment assembly and material behaviour
Measurement interpretation	Applying fitting data and clinical measurements
Sewing and reconstruction skills	Performing high-precision stitching and rework
Material handling	Working with elastic, technical and medical-grade textiles
Quality control	Ensuring garments meet specifications after alteration
Documentation and traceability	Recording changes and maintaining compliance records

4. Generic Skills

Attention to detail	Ensuring precision in all alterations
---------------------	---------------------------------------

Problem solving	Identifying and correcting fit and performance issues
Communication	Collaborating with fitting specialists and clinical teams
Manual dexterity	Performing fine, detailed garment adjustments
Time management	Managing urgent alteration requests and turnaround times
Teamwork	Working across production and clinical interfaces
Professionalism	Maintaining confidentiality and compliance standards

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	- Integration of digital fitting feedback into alteration processes - Use of 3D body scan data to guide garment modification - Advanced smart textiles requiring specialised adjustment techniques - Automated and semi-automated alteration technologies - Digital workflow integration between pattern making and alteration - Sustainable repair and modification practices
-----------------	---

6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

Entry-level preparation	MST31022 Certificate III in Apparel, Fashion and Textiles or equivalent.
Advanced development	MST40222 Certificate IV in Apparel and Fashion or equivalent in Fashion Technology, Garment Engineering or Biomedical Textile Production

7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Sewing Machinist → Alterations Specialist → Senior Adjustment Specialist → Technical Garment Specialist → Product Development or Clinical Support Specialist
--------------------------	--

8. Classification

Australian Qualifications Framework	Level 3-5
Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Skill Levels	Skill Level 3-4
Open Source Classification of Occupations for Australia (OSCA)	Alterations Specialist / Technical Garment Adjustment Specialist - Biomedical Textiles



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