

# SSBIO08 Sterilisation and Packaging Technician – Acute and Clinical Care Textiles

## 1. Job role

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| TCF sub-sector           | Biomedical Textiles                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Functional area          | Manufacturing – Acute and Clinical Care Textiles Production                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Job role                 | SSBIO08 Sterilisation and Packaging Technician – Acute and Clinical Care Textiles                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Job role description     | <p>Performs sterilisation preparation, packaging and post-processing handling of acute and clinical care textile products to ensure sterility, product integrity, traceability and compliance with stringent clinical and regulatory requirements.</p> <p>In the Australian biomedical textiles sector, this role is critical in the final stages of production for products such as surgical gowns, drapes, sterile packs, wound care textiles and infection control materials. These products must be packaged and sterilised in a way that preserves barrier performance, prevents contamination and ensures safe use in clinical environments.</p> <p>The role involves preparing products for sterilisation, selecting and applying appropriate packaging systems, operating or supporting sterilisation processes (e.g. steam, EO, gamma as applicable), and verifying that products meet validated sterility and packaging specifications. The technician must operate within controlled environments and adhere to ISO standards, TGA requirements and validated sterilisation protocols.</p> <p>The position works closely with product assembly technicians, cleanroom operators, quality assurance personnel and logistics teams to ensure that products are sterile, compliant, traceable and ready for distribution to healthcare settings.</p> |
| Performance expectations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparing products for sterilisation in accordance with validated procedures</li> <li>• Applying packaging systems that maintain sterility and product integrity</li> <li>• Ensuring correct configuration, folding and presentation of products</li> <li>• Supporting sterilisation processes and monitoring critical parameters</li> <li>• Maintaining traceability of batches, loads and packaging materials</li> <li>• Preventing contamination during handling and packaging</li> <li>• Minimising defects, packaging failures and rework</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

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|                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintaining accurate documentation and compliance with regulatory standards</li> <li>• Supporting efficient workflow and throughput without compromising quality</li> </ul>                                                                                                                          |
| Specialisation                   | Sterile packaging systems, clinical textile sterilisation, barrier integrity, validated processing, traceability and compliance                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Application in other TCF sectors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medical device sterilisation and packaging</li> <li>• Pharmaceutical manufacturing and packaging</li> <li>• Laboratory and cleanroom environments</li> <li>• Defence and high-specification packaging systems</li> <li>• Advanced manufacturing requiring sterile or controlled packaging</li> </ul> |

## 2. Key tasks and critical work functions

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| Key tasks               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparing textile products for sterilisation (folding, configuration, kit assembly)</li> <li>• Selecting and applying appropriate sterile barrier systems (wraps, pouches, trays)</li> <li>• Loading and unloading sterilisation equipment or preparing loads for external processing</li> <li>• Monitoring sterilisation cycles and recording process data</li> <li>• Inspecting packaging integrity and seal quality</li> <li>• Labelling products with batch, lot and traceability information</li> <li>• Maintaining clean and controlled packaging environments</li> <li>• Recording sterilisation and packaging documentation</li> <li>• Collaborating with quality and production teams</li> </ul> |
| Critical work functions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring sterility of finished biomedical textile products</li> <li>• Maintaining integrity of sterile barrier systems</li> <li>• Preventing contamination during packaging and handling</li> <li>• Ensuring compliance with validated sterilisation protocols</li> <li>• Maintaining traceability from production through sterilisation and dispatch</li> <li>• Supporting audit readiness and regulatory compliance</li> <li>• Enabling safe delivery of products for clinical use</li> <li>• Supporting consistent and repeatable packaging and sterilisation outcomes</li> </ul>                                                                                                                      |

## 3. Technical skills

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| Sterilisation preparation | Configuring products for effective sterilisation processes                                   |
| Packaging systems         | Applying sterile barrier systems including wraps, pouches and trays                          |
| Folding and configuration | Preparing products to maintain function and sterility post-processing                        |
| Process monitoring        | Recording and verifying sterilisation parameters (time, temperature, pressure, gas exposure) |
| Seal integrity techniques | Ensuring correct sealing of packaging systems                                                |
| Contamination control     | Applying clean handling and controlled environment practices                                 |
| Traceability systems      | Managing batch, lot and labelling requirements                                               |

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| Documentation and validation | Recording data to support validated sterilisation processes and compliance |
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#### 4. Generic Skills

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| Attention to detail | Ensuring precision in packaging and sterilisation preparation |
| Communication       | Working with production, QA and logistics teams               |
| Problem solving     | Identifying and resolving packaging or process issues         |
| Teamwork            | Supporting integrated manufacturing and compliance systems    |
| Time management     | Managing workflow and sterilisation schedules                 |
| Adaptability        | Responding to different product and process requirements      |
| Professionalism     | Maintaining compliance, hygiene and confidentiality standards |

#### 5. Emerging skills

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| Emerging skills | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advanced sterile barrier technologies and materials</li> <li>Automation and robotics in packaging and sterilisation</li> <li>Digital traceability and electronic batch records</li> <li>Real-time monitoring of sterilisation processes</li> <li>Sustainable and recyclable sterile packaging systems</li> <li>Integration with smart medical textile systems</li> </ul> |
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#### 6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

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| Entry-level preparation | MSA30107 Certificate III in Process Manufacturing or equivalent |
| Advanced development    | MSM40116 Certificate IV in Process Manufacturing or equivalent  |

#### 7. Job progression

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| Possible job progression | Packaging Operator → Sterilisation and Packaging Technician → Senior Technician → Quality or Compliance Specialist → Production or Operations Supervisor |
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#### 8. Classification

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| Australian Qualifications Framework                            | Level 3-4                                                    |
| Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Skill Levels             | Skill Level 3                                                |
| Open Source Classification of Occupations for Australia (OSCA) | Sterilisation and Packaging Technician – Biomedical Textiles |



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