

SSMTC05 Product Lead / Specialist

1. Job role

TCF sub-sector	Cut and Sewn Products (Non-Garment)
Functional area	Production Management
Job role	SSMTC05 Product Lead / Specialist
Job role description	Leads and coordinates the development, technical execution and lifecycle management of cut and sewn non-garment products within the Textile, Clothing and Footwear (TCF) industry. This role is identified within the Production Management function of the cut and sewn products occupational framework and supports technically specialised products and systems used across a broad range of industrial and commercial applications. The Product Lead / Specialist oversees the development and operational delivery of products such as bags, covers, tarpaulins, tensile systems, shade cloth systems, upholstery assemblies, industrial textile products, furniture components, transport interiors, protective systems and technical textile solutions. The role is responsible for ensuring products are commercially viable, technically compliant, manufacturable and aligned with customer and operational requirements throughout the full product lifecycle from concept and prototyping through to production, delivery and continuous improvement. The Product Lead / Specialist acts as the key technical and operational reference point for designated product categories, coordinating communication and workflow between product development, design, engineering, production, quality assurance, procurement and customer-facing functions. The position requires detailed understanding of textile fabrication systems, materials performance, sewn and welded assembly techniques, production workflows, standards compliance and product functionality. The role also contributes to troubleshooting, process optimisation, quality improvement and innovation activities to ensure products remain competitive and operationally effective.
Performance expectations	- Managing product categories and lifecycle activities effectively - Ensuring products meet technical, operational and commercial requirements - Coordinating product development, production and quality activities - Maintaining product specifications, documentation and traceability - Supporting manufacturability and efficient production outcomes

	- Ensuring compliance with customer, safety and industry standards - Supporting problem-solving, troubleshooting and continuous improvement - Maintaining alignment between customer requirements and production capability - Driving quality, functionality and performance consistency across product lines
Specialisation	Technical product coordination, lifecycle management, textile fabrication systems, industrial sewn products, standards compliance, production integration and product optimisation
Application in other TCF sectors	Industrial textiles, transport systems, defence products, marine fabrication, architectural textiles, commercial furnishings, infrastructure textiles and specialised fabricated systems

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	- Coordinating development and delivery of non-garment sewn products - Managing product specifications, BOMs and technical documentation - Supporting prototyping, testing and validation activities - Liaising with customers, suppliers and internal teams regarding product requirements - Monitoring production outcomes and addressing technical issues - Supporting quality assurance and compliance activities - Coordinating product revisions and continuous improvement initiatives - Ensuring products remain commercially viable and manufacturable - Supporting scheduling, workflow coordination and production readiness - Assisting with troubleshooting and resolution of product performance issues
Critical work functions	- Ensuring product functionality, quality and reliability - Maintaining alignment between product design and production capability - Supporting compliance with technical, safety and customer requirements - Preventing defects, inconsistencies and operational inefficiencies - Supporting smooth communication across technical and operational teams - Maintaining technical documentation and traceability - Optimising product performance and manufacturability - Supporting long-term product improvement and customer satisfaction

3. Technical skills

Product lifecycle management	Managing development, production and product support activities
Technical textile knowledge	Understanding materials, fabrication systems and product performance

Fabrication processes	Understanding sewing, welding, cutting and assembly systems
Standards compliance	Applying customer, safety and industry requirements
Problem-solving and troubleshooting	Resolving technical and operational product issues
Quality systems	Supporting QA processes and compliance activities
Documentation management	Maintaining specifications, BOMs and technical records
Production integration	Supporting efficient transition from development to manufacture

4. Generic Skills

Leadership	Supporting product coordination and team collaboration
Communication	Coordinating across technical, operational and customer-facing teams
Problem solving	Resolving product and process challenges
Decision making	Balancing technical, commercial and operational considerations
Teamwork	Working across multidisciplinary environments
Time management	Managing priorities, schedules and deadlines
Adaptability	Responding to evolving product and customer requirements
Professionalism	Maintaining accountability, compliance and quality standards

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	- Digital product lifecycle management systems - Advanced technical textiles and composite materials - Smart and functional textile integration - Industry 4.0 production monitoring and analytics - Sustainable materials and circular product development - Digital workflow integration and automated specification systems
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6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

Entry-level preparation	MST30222 Certificate III in Manufactured Textile Products
Advanced development	MST40122 Certificate IV in Textile Design and Technology or equivalent and / or bachelor's degree in textile technology, engineering, industrial design or quality.

7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Production Team Leader → Product Specialist → Product Lead → Product Development Manager → Technical or Operations Manager
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8. Classification

Australian Qualifications Framework	Level 3-6
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Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Skill Levels	Skill Level 2-3
Open Source Classification of Occupations for Australia (OSCA)	Product Lead / Specialist – Cut and Sewn Products (Non-Garment)



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