

SSDCL1 Dry Cleaner / Garment Processing Technician

1. Job role

TCF sub-sector	Dry Cleaning and Laundry Services
Functional area	Garment Processing
Job role	SSDCL1 Dry Cleaner / Garment Processing Technician
Job role description	Performs garment cleaning processes including spotting, stain removal, solvent-based dry cleaning and wet cleaning techniques to achieve high-quality outcomes while preserving fabric integrity. In the Australian dry cleaning industry—where operations must comply with workplace health, safety and environmental requirements—the Dry Cleaner applies knowledge of textiles, chemicals and machine processes to ensure garments meet quality standards, production requirements and customer expectations.
Performance expectations	- Assessing garments to determine appropriate cleaning methods based on fabric type and condition - Performing spotting and stain removal techniques to achieve effective cleaning outcomes - Operating and monitoring dry cleaning and wet cleaning equipment to maintain efficiency and quality - Maintaining garment quality, colour retention and structural integrity throughout processing - Ensuring compliance with workplace health, safety and environmental requirements - Meeting production targets, turnaround times and workflow requirements - Maintaining accurate garment tagging and tracking systems - Contributing to continuous improvement in cleaning quality, efficiency and sustainability
Specialisation	Spotting and stain treatment, sustainable dry cleaning methods, leather and suede garments, wedding gowns, textile restoration - fire and water damage.
Application in other Textile, Clothing and Footwear (TCF) sectors	- Commercial laundry and linen services supporting garment handling, stain removal and large-scale textile cleaning processes - Textile manufacturing and finishing supporting fabric and chemical application in dyeing, finishing and treatment processes - Apparel production and garment finishing supporting garment handling, inspection and preparation for quality presentation

	• Technical textile and specialty cleaning services supporting specialised cleaning techniques for performance and high-value textiles • Textile restoration services supporting stain removal and fabric treatment to restore damaged garments and textiles • Leather and suede processing supporting specialised cleaning and handling of non-standard materials • Manufacturing and processing industries supporting chemical handling, quality control and workflow management in controlled production environments
--	---

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	• Inspecting garments to identify fabric types, stains and care requirements • Selecting appropriate dry cleaning or wet cleaning processes based on garment characteristics • Performing spotting and stain removal using suitable chemicals and techniques • Operating dry cleaning and wet cleaning machines in accordance with procedures • Preparing garments for pressing, finishing and downstream processes • Maintaining garment tagging and tracking systems to ensure workflow accuracy • Cleaning and maintaining equipment and work areas • Following workplace health, safety and chemical handling procedures
Critical work functions	• Identifying stains accurately and selecting appropriate treatment methods • Handling cleaning chemicals safely and in compliance with regulations • Maintaining garment quality and preventing damage during processing • Managing workflow to meet production targets and turnaround times • Ensuring compliance with workplace health, safety and environmental requirements • Coordinating with production and finishing teams to achieve quality outcomes

3. Technical skills

Garment assessment	Identifying fabric types and care requirements
Stain removal techniques	Applying spotting methods and stain treatment processes
Dry cleaning systems	Operating solvent-based cleaning machines
Wet cleaning systems	Using water-based cleaning processes
Chemical handling	Handling cleaning agents safely
Fabric knowledge	Understanding textile properties and dyes
Machine operation	Operating cleaning equipment

Quality control	Inspecting garments after cleaning
-----------------	------------------------------------

4. Generic Skills

Attention to detail	Ensuring high quality garment outcomes
Problem solving	Resolving cleaning and stain issues
Communication	Communicating with production teams
Teamwork	Working collaboratively in operations
Time management	Meeting production deadlines
Safety awareness	Applying safe practices
Adaptability	Handling varied garments

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	• Adopting sustainable cleaning methods including wet cleaning and low-impact chemicals • Applying advanced stain removal techniques for modern and technical fabrics • Using digital garment tracking systems • Implementing energy-efficient cleaning technologies • Handling performance and technical textiles • Integrating environmentally responsible practices
-----------------	---

6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

Entry-level preparation	MST30922 Certificate III in Dry Cleaning Operations.
Advanced development	No skill set or qualification.

7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Dry Cleaner → Senior Dry Cleaner → Spotting Specialist → Production Supervisor → Production Manager
--------------------------	---

8. Classification

Australian Qualifications Framework	AQF Level 3-4
Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Skill Levels	Skill Level 4
Open Source Classification of Occupations for Australia (OSCA)	Dry Cleaning Worker / Laundry Worker / Textile Care Operator



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