

SSNST04 Multiskilled Fabric Production Operator

1. Job role

TCF sub-sector	Natural and Synthetic Textile Manufacturing
Functional area	Fabric Production
Job role	SSNST04 Multiskilled Fabric Production Operator
Job role description	Operates, monitors and supports multiple textile fabric production systems across weaving, knitting, nonwoven and finishing operations within the natural and synthetic textile manufacturing sector of the Textile, Clothing and Footwear (TCF) industry. This role is identified as a core occupation within the Fabric Production function of the Natural and Synthetic Textile Manufacturing Occupational Framework. The Multiskilled Fabric Production Operator is a highly versatile technical production worker responsible for producing fabrics and textile materials from natural and synthetic yarns using a range of textile manufacturing technologies and finishing systems. The role involves operating and supporting production systems used in woven fabric manufacturing, circular and flat-bed knitting, warp knitting, nonwoven production, textile finishing, coating preparation and fabric treatment processes. Operators may work across apparel textiles, furnishing fabrics, industrial textiles, technical textiles, automotive textiles, medical textiles and performance textile systems. The position requires detailed understanding of yarn behaviour, fabric formation, machine setup, textile construction, tension control, process sequencing, finishing chemistry and quality requirements. The operator is responsible for maintaining production throughput, fabric consistency, dimensional stability, appearance standards and compliance with technical specifications. The Multiskilled Fabric Production Operator works closely with textile technologists, production supervisors, maintenance technicians, quality inspectors and process technicians to ensure efficient operation of textile machinery, minimise downtime, reduce waste and maintain product quality. The role also contributes to machine setup, cleaning, process adjustments, troubleshooting, sustainability initiatives and continuous improvement activities supporting modern textile manufacturing operations.

Performance expectations	- Producing fabrics that meet technical, dimensional and quality specifications - Operating weaving, knitting, nonwoven and finishing systems safely and efficiently - Maintaining production throughput and machine efficiency - Minimising fabric defects, contamination and process waste - Supporting effective machine setup and process control activities - Monitoring fabric quality, appearance and performance characteristics - Supporting compliance with safety, operational and quality procedures - Maintaining traceability and production documentation - Contributing to productivity, sustainability and continuous improvement outcomes
Specialisation	Dyeing, Weaving operations, knitting systems, nonwoven manufacturing, textile finishing, fabric quality control, textile machinery operation and textile process support
Application in other TCF sectors	Apparel textiles, furnishing textiles, industrial textiles, technical textiles, medical textiles, automotive textiles, performance textiles and advanced textile manufacturing

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	- Operating weaving, knitting and nonwoven machinery - Preparing yarns and materials for fabric production processes - Monitoring machine settings, tension, speed and fabric formation - Conducting finishing operations including washing, drying, coating and heat setting - Identifying fabric defects, machine faults and process inconsistencies - Adjusting machine settings to maintain fabric quality and production efficiency - Performing routine cleaning and basic maintenance activities - Recording production, quality and traceability information - Following workplace safety, quality and operational procedures - Supporting production scheduling and workflow continuity
Critical work functions	- Ensuring consistent fabric quality and production performance - Maintaining dimensional stability, appearance and structural integrity of fabrics - Preventing defects, contamination and process inefficiencies - Supporting efficient workflow across fabric production operations - Maintaining safe operation of textile machinery and finishing systems - Supporting compliance with technical specifications and production standards - Maintaining traceability and documentation integrity - Contributing to operational reliability, sustainability and productivity outcomes

3. Technical skills

Fabric production operations	Operating weaving, knitting and nonwoven systems
Textile finishing	Supporting dyeing, washing, coating, drying and finishing processes
Machine setup and adjustment	Adjusting machine parameters for fabric quality and efficiency
Fabric quality control	Monitoring appearance, dimensions and performance characteristics
Yarn and fabric knowledge	Understanding yarn behaviour and textile structures
Process monitoring	Identifying defects and maintaining production continuity
Basic maintenance	Performing cleaning and routine machine servicing
Documentation and traceability	Maintaining production and quality records

4. Generic Skills

Attention to detail	Maintaining fabric quality and production consistency
Communication	Working with supervisors, technicians and production teams
Problem solving	Resolving textile production and machinery issues
Teamwork	Supporting integrated textile manufacturing operations
Time management	Meeting production schedules and throughput requirements
Adaptability	Working across multiple textile production systems
Reliability	Maintaining consistent operational performance
Professionalism	Following operational, safety and quality standards

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	• Smart textile manufacturing and automated monitoring systems • Sustainable textile finishing and water reduction technologies • Advanced nonwoven and performance textile manufacturing systems • Industry 4.0 integration in textile production operations • Digital production analytics and predictive maintenance systems • Functional textile treatments and advanced finishing technologies
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6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

Entry-level preparation	No skill set or qualification
Advanced development	No skill set or qualification

7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Fabric Production Assistant → Fabric Production Operator → Multiskilled Fabric Production Operator → Production Team Leader → Production Supervisor
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8. Classification

Australian Qualifications Framework	Level 2-4
Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Skill Levels	Skill Level 3-4
Open Source Classification of Occupations for Australia (OSCA)	Multiskilled Fabric Production Operator - Natural and Synthetic Textile Manufacturing



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