

CS65 Automation / PLC Technician

1. Job role

TCF sub-sector	Cross-sector
Job role	CS65 Automation / PLC Technician
Job role description	Installs, programs, maintains and troubleshoots automated production systems and programmable logic controllers (PLCs) used in TCF manufacturing and processing environments. The role supports the operation of automated machinery, production lines and digitally integrated systems, ensuring reliability, efficiency and safety. It involves working with sensors, actuators, control systems and industrial networks, and contributes to the implementation of Industry 4.0 technologies across TCF operations.
Performance expectations	- Ensuring reliable operation of automated production systems - Programming and maintaining PLCs and control systems - Diagnosing and resolving faults in automation systems - Minimising downtime and production disruption - Supporting integration of digital and automated technologies - Maintaining safety and compliance of equipment - Supporting continuous improvement in system performance - Maintaining accurate technical documentation - Collaborating with production and engineering teams - Adhering to workplace safety and operational procedures
Specialisation	PLC programming, industrial automation, robotics integration, sensor systems, SCADA systems, industrial networking
Application in other Textile, Clothing and Footwear (TCF) sectors	- Apparel production supporting automated cutting, sewing and finishing systems - Textile manufacturing supporting continuous processing and automated machinery - Footwear production supporting automated assembly and material handling systems - Leather goods production supporting precision cutting and assembly - Dry cleaning and laundry supporting automated washing, sorting and finishing systems - Technical textiles supporting advanced manufacturing systems - Manufacturing industries supporting automation and control systems

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	- Programming and configuring PLC systems - Installing and commissioning automated equipment - Monitoring system performance and diagnosing faults - Maintaining sensors, actuators and control components
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	• Updating software and control logic • Integrating automation systems with production processes • Maintaining technical documentation • Supporting upgrades and system improvements
Critical work functions	• Ensuring reliability and uptime of automated systems • Maintaining safety and compliance of control systems • Diagnosing and resolving faults efficiently • Supporting seamless integration of automation with production • Maintaining accuracy of control logic and system data • Minimising production disruption • Supporting continuous improvement initiatives

3. Technical skills

PLC programming	Programming and troubleshooting PLC systems
Automation systems	Operating and maintaining automated production equipment
Sensors and actuators	Installing and maintaining control components
Electrical systems	Understanding industrial electrical systems and circuits
SCADA and HMI systems	Monitoring and controlling systems through interfaces
Industrial networking	Configuring communication between systems
Fault diagnosis	Identifying and resolving system faults

4. Generic Skills

Problem solving	Diagnosing and resolving technical issues
Analytical thinking	Understanding system performance and data
Attention to detail	Ensuring accuracy in programming and maintenance
Communication	Working with production and engineering teams
Time management	Responding to faults and maintenance tasks efficiently
Adaptability	Working with evolving technologies

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	• Integrating Industry 4.0 technologies and IoT systems • Using predictive maintenance and data analytics • Supporting robotics and advanced automation systems • Implementing digital twin and simulation technologies • Applying cybersecurity in industrial systems • Integrating automation with ERP and MES systems
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6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

Entry-level preparation	UEE30820 Certificate III in Electrotechnology Electrician
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Advanced development	UEE40420 Certificate IV in Electrical - Instrumentation or equivalent
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7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Maintenance Technician → Automation / PLC Technician → Senior Automation Technician → Engineering Supervisor → Plant Engineer
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8. Classification

Australian Qualifications Framework	AQF Level 3-5
Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Skill Levels	Skill Level 2-3
Open Source Classification of Occupations for Australia (OSCA)	Automation Technician / PLC Technician



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