

CS71 Automated Cutting Systems Operator

1. Job role

TCF sub-sector	Cross-sector role
Job role	CS71 Automated Cutting Systems Operator
Job role description	Operates and maintains automated cutting systems used to cut fabrics, leather and other materials according to digital patterns and production specifications. The role supports efficient, accurate and high-volume cutting processes using computer-controlled equipment integrated with CAD/CAM systems. It ensures optimal material utilisation, production speed and quality, and works closely with pattern making, product development and production teams.
Performance expectations	• Producing accurate cuts aligned with digital patterns and specifications • Operating automated cutting systems safely and efficiently • Maximising material utilisation and minimising waste • Maintaining consistent cutting quality across production runs • Preparing materials and lay-ups correctly for cutting • Ensuring correct system settings and calibration • Meeting production targets and timelines • Maintaining equipment and reporting faults • Collaborating with pattern making and production teams • Following workplace safety and operational procedures
Specialisation	CAD/CAM cutting systems, nesting and marker optimisation, leather cutting systems, automated spreading systems, digital cutting workflows
Application in other TCF sectors	• Apparel production supporting fabric cutting and lay planning • Textile manufacturing supporting material preparation and sampling • Footwear production supporting cutting of uppers and components • Leather goods production supporting precision cutting of hides • Technical textiles supporting specialised material cutting • Furniture and soft goods manufacturing supporting fabric cutting • Manufacturing industries supporting automated cutting systems

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	• Preparing digital cutting files and machine settings • Operating automated cutting equipment • Preparing material lay-ups and positioning • Monitoring cutting processes and adjusting parameters • Inspecting cut components for accuracy and quality • Performing basic maintenance and troubleshooting • Optimising marker layouts for material efficiency • Coordinating with production and pattern teams
Critical work functions	• Ensuring accuracy and consistency of cut components • Maximising material efficiency and reducing waste • Maintaining machine performance and calibration • Supporting efficient production flow • Preventing defects and rework • Ensuring compatibility between digital patterns and cutting output • Maintaining safe operation of equipment

3. Technical skills

Automated cutting systems	Operating CNC and computer-controlled cutting equipment
CAD/CAM integration	Using digital patterns and integrating with cutting systems
Marker making and nesting	Optimising layouts for material efficiency
Material handling	Preparing and managing fabrics, leather and materials
Machine maintenance	Performing routine maintenance and troubleshooting
Quality inspection	Checking accuracy of cut components
System calibration	Ensuring correct machine settings and alignment

4. Generic Skills

Attention to detail	Ensuring precision in cutting operations
Technical aptitude	Working with automated machinery and systems
Problem solving	Resolving equipment and production issues
Communication	Working with production and design teams
Time management	Meeting production deadlines
Safety awareness	Operating machinery safely

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	• Using advanced automated cutting and robotics systems • Integrating cutting systems with digital production workflows • Applying AI-driven nesting and optimisation tools • Supporting mass customisation and flexible production • Using real-time production monitoring systems • Applying sustainability practices in material utilisation
-----------------	--

6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

Entry-level preparation	Any of or equivalent: - MST31022 Certificate III in Apparel, Fashion and Textiles or equivalent - MST30222 Certificate III in Manufactured Textile Products
Advanced development	MST40222 Certificate IV in Apparel and Fashion or equivalent

7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Production Assistant → Cutting Operator → Automated Cutting Systems Operator → Senior Technician → Production Supervisor
--------------------------	--

8. Classification

Australian Qualifications Framework	AQF Level 3-4
Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Skill Levels	Skill Level 3
Open Source Classification of Occupations for Australia (OSCA)	Textile or Garment Cutter - Automated Systems



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