

SSALT02 Alterations Sewing Machinist

Disclaimer

These Occupational Frameworks and Skill Profiles have been developed as workforce planning, occupational mapping and skills reference resources for the Australian textile, clothing and footwear (TCF) industry. They are intended to describe the typical functions, responsibilities, skills and capabilities associated with occupations across the industry.

These documents are not intended to replace or override industrial instruments or employment arrangements, including awards, enterprise agreements, employment contracts, position descriptions, classification structures, licensing or regulatory requirements, or other statutory obligations. Where differences arise, the relevant industrial, legislative or regulatory requirements take precedence. The Skill Profiles should be used as complementary reference documents to support workforce planning, career development, training and skills recognition.

1. Job role

TCF sub-sector	Clothing and Footwear Repairs and Alterations
Functional area	Clothing Alterations and Repairs
Job role	SSALT02 Alterations Sewing Machinist
Job role description	Performs garment alterations and repair tasks using industrial sewing machinery and hand techniques. Works from marked garments and alteration instructions provided by a Senior Specialist or Owner-Operator.
Performance expectations	- Complete alterations to required quality standards. - Follow marking and alteration instructions accurately. - Maintain stitching precision and seam integrity. - Meet agreed turnaround times. - Minimise fabric damage and rework. - Maintain safe and organised workstation.
Specialisation	- Hem adjustments and length alterations. - Zip replacement. - Seam adjustments and tapering. - Basic lining repairs. - General garment repairs.
Application in other TCF sectors	Transferable to apparel manufacturing, tailoring workshops and costume production environments.

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	- Read and interpret alteration instructions. - Prepare garments for alteration. - Perform hemming, seam adjustment and resizing. - Replace zips and repair seams. - Operate industrial sewing machinery. - Press and finish garments to presentation standard. - Conduct basic quality inspection before handover.
Critical work functions	- Maintaining seam strength and garment integrity. - Accurate measurement and alignment.

	• Preventing fabric distortion or damage. • Ensuring consistent stitch quality. • Maintaining production efficiency. • Following safe machinery operating procedures. • Adhering to established quality standards.
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3. Technical skills

Business development planning	Identifying and pursuing growth opportunities.
Contract negotiation	Developing and negotiating service agreements.
CRM system management*	Tracking partnership activity and performance.
Market analysis	Assessing industry trends and opportunities.
Financial analysis	Evaluating partnership profitability.
Presentation skills	Preparing proposals and pitch materials.

*Technical skills identified as emerging skills in TCF industry.

4. Generic Skills

Sewing machine operation	Operation and adjustment of industrial sewing machines.
Garment construction knowledge	Understanding seam types and finishing methods.
Measurement techniques	Accurate marking and alignment skills.
Fabric handling	Managing stretch, delicate and woven fabrics.
Pressing and finishing	Professional garment finishing techniques.
Zip and fastening replacement	Correct installation methods.
Hand sewing techniques	Basic reinforcement and finishing work.
Digital job tracking systems*	Recording completed work in booking systems.

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	• Sustainable repair and upcycling techniques. • Working with technical and stretch performance fabrics. • Digital workflow systems. • Online alteration service integration.
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6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

Entry-level preparation	MST20722 Certificate II in Apparel, Fashion and Textiles or equivalent.
Advanced development	MST40222 Certificate IV in Apparel and Fashion.

7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Alterations Sewing Machinist → Senior Alterations and Repairs Specialist → Owner-Operator / Business Proprietor.
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8. Classification

Australian Qualifications Framework	AQF Level 2-3.
Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Skill Levels	Skill Level 4.
Open Source Classification of Occupations for Australia (OSCA)	731431 Sewing Machinist.



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