

SSALT06 Dressmaker

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	SSALT06 Dressmaker
Job role description	Constructs, alters and repairs garments for individual clients. Responsible for garment pattern adaptation, cutting, assembly and finishing. May work in small studios, owner-operated businesses or specialist alteration enterprises.
Performance expectations	- Produce garments to required fit and finish standards. - Accurately interpret client measurements and design requirements. - Maintain high-quality construction and seam integrity. - Meet agreed production and alteration timelines. - Minimise fabric wastage. - Maintain safe and organised work practices.
Specialisation	- Custom-made garments. - Women's wear and occasion wear. - Garment alterations and resizing. - Restyling and garment reconstruction. - Light bridal and formalwear.
Application in other TCF sectors	Transferable to apparel manufacturing, costume production, bridal services and small-scale fashion enterprises.

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	- Consult with clients regarding garment requirements. - Take and record body measurements. - Adapt or draft simple garment patterns. - Cut fabric components accurately. - Assemble garments using sewing machinery and hand techniques.
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	• Perform fitting adjustments. • Press and finish garments to professional standard.
Critical work functions	• Maintaining measurement accuracy. • Ensuring garment balance and fit. • Preserving design intent. • Maintaining consistent stitch quality. • Managing fabric handling carefully. • Meeting agreed delivery timelines. • Maintaining safe machinery operation.

3. Technical skills

Garment construction knowledge	Understanding garment assembly and seam types.
Pattern adaptation	Adjusting basic patterns for individual fit.
Fabric cutting techniques	Accurate layout and cutting methods.
Industrial sewing machine operation	Use of standard sewing equipment.
Hand finishing techniques	Hem finishing and detailing methods.
Fitting techniques	Assessing and adjusting garment fit.
Pressing and finishing	Professional garment presentation.

4. Generic Skills

Attention to detail	Maintain precision in cutting and sewing.
Communication	Engage effectively with clients.
Problem solving	Resolve fit and construction challenges.
Time management	Complete work within agreed deadlines.
Manual dexterity	Perform accurate sewing tasks.
Customer orientation	Deliver personalised garment services.

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	• Sustainable garment construction and upcycling. • Working with stretch and technical fabrics. • Digital pattern tools (basic level). • Online client consultation systems.
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6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

Entry-level preparation	MST31022 Certificate III in Apparel, Fashion and Textiles or equivalent.
Advanced development	MST40222 Certificate IV in Apparel and Fashion or MST50122 Diploma of Apparel, Fashion and Textiles or equivalent.

7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Dressmaker → Senior Dressmaker / Owner-Operator.
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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)	399433 Dressmaker or Tailor.



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