

SSAPP4 Cutter

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	Apparel
Functional area	Manufacturing - Cutting and Preparation
Job role	SSAPP4 Cutter
Job role description	Cuts garment components from fabric lays according to marker layouts and production specifications. The Cutter works in the apparel cutting room using manual, automated or laser cutting equipment to ensure accurate garment pieces are prepared for sewing operations. The role requires precision, understanding of fabrics and markers, and the ability to maintain efficient material utilisation and production workflow.
Performance expectations	• Cut garment components accurately according to marker layouts. • Operate manual or automated cutting equipment safely. • Ensure fabric lays and markers are correctly positioned before cutting. • Maintain consistent accuracy of garment components. • Minimise fabric waste during cutting operations. • Meet production schedules and output targets. • Follow workplace health and safety procedures. • Maintain clean and organised cutting work areas.
Specialisation	Fabric cutting using straight knife, band knife, rotary cutters, automated or laser cutting machines within apparel manufacturing cutting rooms.
Application in other TCF sectors	• Textile product manufacturing requiring fabric cutting. • Footwear and leather goods component cutting. • Technical textile production environments. • Uniform and workwear manufacturing. • Small-scale clothing production and custom garment manufacturing.

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	• Prepare fabric lays for cutting operations. • Position markers on fabric according to specifications. • Operate cutting equipment to cut garment components. • Ensure cut pieces remain aligned with marker patterns. • Sort and bundle cut components for sewing operations. • Inspect cut pieces for accuracy and defects. • Maintain cutting equipment and workstations. • Record production outputs where required.
Critical work functions	• Ensuring garment components are cut accurately. • Maintaining efficient fabric utilisation. • Supporting smooth workflow from cutting room to sewing operations. • Preventing fabric damage or cutting errors. • Maintaining productivity within cutting room operations. • Ensuring safe operation of cutting equipment.

3. Technical skills

Fabric lay preparation	Prepare and align fabric layers for cutting.
Marker interpretation	Understand marker layouts and pattern placement.
Cutting equipment operation	Operate straight knife, rotary or automated cutting machines.
Fabric handling	Handle fabric rolls and lays without damage.
Cut piece accuracy	Ensure cut components match marker patterns.
Production workflow knowledge	Understand cutting room processes in garment manufacturing.
Material efficiency	Minimise fabric waste during cutting.
Workplace safety	Follow WHS procedures when operating cutting equipment.

4. Generic Skills

Attention to detail	Ensure accurate cutting of garment components.
Manual dexterity	Handle cutting tools and fabrics precisely.
Communication	Report production or material issues.
Teamwork	Work closely with marker makers and sewing teams.
Time management	Maintain cutting schedules and production flow.
Organisation	Maintain safe and tidy cutting work areas.

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	• Automated and laser cutting technologies. • Integration of CAD markers with cutting equipment. • Digital production monitoring systems.
-----------------	---

	• Sustainable manufacturing practices to reduce fabric waste. • Advanced technical textile cutting techniques.
--	---

6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

Entry-level preparation	MST20722 Certificate II in Apparel, Fashion and Textiles or equivalent
Advanced development	MST31022 Certificate III in Apparel, Fashion and Textiles

7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Production Assistant → Cutter → Senior Cutter → Cutting Room Supervisor
--------------------------	---

8. Classification

Australian Qualifications Framework	AQF Level 2-3
Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Skill Levels	Skill Level 3
Open Source Classification of Occupations for Australia (OSCA)	399431 Apparel Cutter



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