

SSAPP10 Grader

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	Product Design and Development
Job role	SSAPP10 Grader
Job role description	Develops brand-specific sizing systems, size grading rules and graded pattern sets for apparel products. The Grader interprets target-market body measurement data, customer characteristics, fit preferences, product categories and brand positioning to establish appropriate base sizes, size charts and grade increments. The role applies manual or digital grading techniques to base garment patterns to create accurate size ranges suitable for production, and works closely with patternmakers, digital patternmakers, technical designers and product developers to ensure garments maintain the intended fit, proportions and construction across all sizes.
Performance expectations	- Analyse a fashion brand's target market, customer body characteristics, fit preferences and product positioning. - Develop and maintain brand-specific sizing systems, including base sizes, size charts, grade rules and size ranges. - Interpret anthropometric data, body measurement standards, fit-model measurements and customer feedback. - Apply grading techniques to base garment patterns. - Ensure proportional consistency and the intended fit across all garment sizes. - Work with patternmakers, technical designers and product developers during sizing and product development. - Validate brand sizing and graded patterns through fit evaluation, sampling and review across the size range. - Prepare graded patterns for production and marker making. - Maintain grading specifications, sizing documentation and digital pattern files. - Support consistent garment fit and sizing across product ranges.

Specialisation	Development and application of brand-specific apparel sizing and grading systems using manual or digital pattern grading methods.
Application in other TCF sectors	• Footwear size grading systems. • Technical apparel and protective clothing development. • Uniform and workwear garment sizing. • Outdoor apparel and performance garment sizing. • Sewn product industries including bags and accessories.

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	• Research and interpret target-market body measurement data, customer profiles and fit expectations. • Develop brand sizing strategies, base sizes, size charts, size ranges and grade increments. • Develop grading specifications for apparel product ranges • Apply grading rules to base garment patterns. • Assess how garment style, ease, fabrication and construction affect grading requirements. • Adjust sizing specifications and graded patterns following fit evaluations and customer or market feedback. • Prepare graded pattern sets for production. • Maintain digital grading systems, pattern files and version control. • Collaborate with patternmakers, technical designers and product developers. • Support marker making and production preparation. • Document brand sizing standards and grading rules for product ranges.
Critical work functions	• Ensuring the brand's sizing system reflects its target market and intended fit. • Establishing consistent relationships between body measurements, garment measurements and grade increments. • Ensuring garments maintain correct proportions and construction across sizes. • Supporting consistent fit and size designation across product ranges. • Preventing sizing and grading errors that affect customer fit or garment construction. • Supporting efficient garment manufacturing processes. • Maintaining accurate sizing and grading documentation. • Ensuring compatibility with production and cutting systems.

3. Technical skills

Pattern grading techniques	Apply manual and digital garment grading methods and select grading approaches appropriate to garment type, construction and fit intent.
CAD grading systems	Use digital pattern grading software to establish, apply, check and maintain grade rules and nested size sets.
Garment construction and fit	Understand garment assembly, pattern balance, ease, silhouette and the effect of fabrication and construction on fit across sizes.

Anthropometry and measurement systems	Interpret body measurement data, fit-model measurements, size charts, demographic datasets and relevant measurement standards.
Brand sizing and target-market analysis	Analyse target customers, market positioning, fit preferences and product categories to develop an appropriate brand sizing architecture, base size and size range.
Grade rule development and proportion analysis	Develop grade increments and maintain appropriate proportional and morphological relationships between sizes and body regions.
Fit validation and pattern adjustment	Evaluate graded garments and patterns across representative sizes and modify grade rules or patterns following fit assessment and sampling.
Sizing documentation and digital file management	Prepare and maintain brand size charts, grading specifications, tolerance information, digital files and version control.

4. Generic Skills

Attention to detail	Ensure precision in grading measurements.
Problem solving	Resolve grading issues affecting garment fit.
Communication	Explain grading adjustments to technical teams.
Collaboration	Work with patternmakers and product developers.
Organisation	Maintain structured grading documentation.
Time management	Meet product development and production deadlines.
Attention to detail	Ensure precision in grading measurements.
Problem solving	Resolve grading issues affecting garment fit.

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	- Automated and AI-assisted grading systems. - Integration with PLM and digital product platforms. 3D fit analysis across size ranges. - Digital body scanning and anthropometric datasets. - Data-driven and inclusive sizing systems. - Use of sales, returns and fit data to refine sizing.
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6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

Entry-level preparation	MST31022 Certificate III in Apparel, Fashion and Textiles
Advanced development	MST50122 Diploma of Apparel, Fashion and Textiles

7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Patternmaking Assistant → Grader → Senior Grader → Technical Design Manager
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8. Classification

Australian Qualifications Framework	3
Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Skill Levels	3
Open Source Classification of Occupations for Australia (OSCA)	399434 Garment Technician



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