

SSAPP15 Manual Patternmaker

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	SSAPP15 Manual Patternmaker
Job role description	Develops, validates and maintains master blocks and garment patterns manually using traditional pattern drafting techniques. The Manual Patternmaker interprets design sketches, technical specifications and measurement charts to draft paper patterns that define garment shape, structure and construction. Applies knowledge of anthropometry, body morphology, structural anatomy and garment balance to develop accurate, well-fitting and manufacturable garments. The role works closely with designers, technical designers, product developers and sample machinists to ensure garments achieve the intended fit, proportions and manufacturability.
Performance expectations	• Draft garment patterns manually from design specifications. • Interpret technical packs, sketches and measurement charts. • Develop, validate and maintain master blocks for garment categories. • Apply anthropometric principles and garment balance to achieve accurate garment fit. • Ensure patterns achieve correct garment fit and proportions. • Amend patterns following fit reviews and development feedback. • Prepare pattern sets for sample production. • Collaborate with designers and technical staff during development. • Maintain accurate paper pattern libraries and documentation.

	Support efficient garment sampling and product development.
Specialisation	Manual garment pattern drafting and pattern engineering using traditional patternmaking techniques.
Application in other TCF sectors	- Footwear pattern engineering and component development. - Technical textile product pattern drafting. - Uniform and workwear garment development. - Outdoor and protective clothing design. - Sewn product industries such as bags and accessories.

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	- Develop, test and maintain master blocks for garment categories. - Draft base garment patterns using manual patternmaking techniques. - Interpret garment designs and technical specifications. - Apply anthropometric measurements, body morphology and structural anatomy principles. - Analyse garment balance, ease and construction requirements. - Create pattern pieces for garment components and panels. - Validate master blocks through sampling and fit assessment. - Adapt validated blocks into style-specific production patterns. - Conduct pattern adjustments following fit sessions. - Prepare pattern sets for sampling and development. - Collaborate with sample machinists during prototype construction. - Maintain paper pattern archives and pattern documentation. - Support garment development and technical review processes.
Critical work functions	- Ensuring garment patterns accurately represent design intent. - Maintaining validated master blocks as core product development assets. - Applying anthropometric and structural garment principles to ensure consistent sizing and fit. - Maintaining consistent garment fit and proportions. - Supporting efficient sampling and product development. - Preventing pattern errors affecting garment construction. - Ensuring patterns are suitable for manufacturing processes. - Maintaining organised pattern libraries.

3. Technical skills

Manual pattern drafting	Draft garment patterns using traditional patternmaking methods.
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Garment construction knowledge	Understand sewing techniques and garment assembly.
Fit evaluation	Assess garment fit and identify pattern adjustments.
Measurement interpretation	Work with measurement charts and garment specifications.
Pattern modification	Adjust patterns following fit sessions and sample reviews.
Fabric behaviour awareness	Understand how fabrics affect pattern shape and garment structure.
Sample collaboration	Work with sample machinists during prototype development.
Pattern documentation	Maintain paper pattern sets and technical records.
Master block development	Develop, validate, adapt and maintain master blocks for garment categories.
Anthropometry	Apply human body measurement principles to garment sizing and fit.
Body morphology	Understand body shape variation and its effect on pattern development.
Structural anatomy	Interpret body structure and movement when developing garment patterns.
Pattern engineering	Develop garment balance, ease distribution and proportions for manufacturable products.

4. Generic Skills

Attention to detail	Ensure precision in pattern drafting and measurements.
Problem solving	Resolve garment fit and construction issues.
Communication	Explain pattern changes to designers and machinists.
Collaboration	Work closely with product development teams.
Organisation	Maintain structured pattern libraries and documentation.
Time management	Meet product development timelines.

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	• Integration with digital patternmaking systems. • 3D garment simulation used to validate manual patterns. • Hybrid manual-digital pattern development workflows. • Digital archiving of manual pattern libraries. • Collaboration with offshore digital product development teams.
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6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

Entry-level preparation	MST20722 Certificate II in Apparel, Fashion and Textiles or equivalent.
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Advanced development	MST31022 Certificate III in Apparel, Fashion and Textiles or Equivalent.
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7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Patternmaking Assistant → Manual Patternmaker → Senior Patternmaker → Technical Design Manager
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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)	399434 Garment Technician



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