

SSAPP17 Product Developer

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	SSAPP17 Product Developer
Job role description	Coordinates the development of apparel products from approved design concepts through to production readiness. The Product Developer manages technical specifications, bills of materials, sampling processes and supplier communication to ensure garments are manufacturable, cost-effective and aligned with quality and brand standards. The Product Developer is also responsible for developing and maintaining garment measurement specifications, graded Points of Measure (POM), and product compliance documentation, including care labelling and mandatory product labelling requirements. The role works closely with designers, technical designers, patternmakers and offshore factories.
Performance expectations	• Coordinate the development of apparel products from concept to production. • Prepare and maintain product specifications and bills of materials. • Measure garments and verify samples against specifications. • Develop and maintain garment measurement specifications and graded POM. • Ensure specification sheets include correct care instructions and product labelling. • Manage sampling and prototype development with suppliers. • Monitor product cost targets and manufacturing feasibility. • Collaborate with designers and technical designers on product refinements. • Communicate development requirements to offshore manufacturers. • Track product development timelines and approvals.

	• Ensure products comply with mandatory apparel safety and labelling requirements, particularly for children's wear where applicable. • Ensure products meet quality, compliance and performance standards.
Specialisation	Apparel product development coordination including technical documentation, sampling management and supplier liaison.
Application in other TCF sectors	• Footwear product development coordination. • Textile product and fabric development. • Uniform and workwear product engineering. • Outdoor and performance apparel product development. • Accessory and lifestyle product development.

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	• Prepare detailed product development documentation. • Develop and manage bills of materials and trim specifications. • Coordinate prototype and sample production. • Measure prototype and production garments. • Prepare and maintain garment measurement charts and POM. • Verify grading across the size range. • Communicate development requirements with suppliers. • Monitor garment cost, quality and manufacturability. • Track development timelines and product approvals. • Support fit reviews and technical revisions. • Maintain product lifecycle management systems. • Complete specification sheets with care instructions and labelling requirements. • Coordinate product compliance documentation.
Critical work functions	• Ensuring apparel products move efficiently from design to production. • Maintaining accurate product specifications and documentation. • Maintaining accurate garment measurement specifications. • Ensuring graded POM are technically correct. • Managing communication between internal teams and manufacturers. • Ensuring garments meet cost, quality and performance expectations. • Ensuring specifications include compliant labelling and care instructions. • Supporting compliance with Australian apparel safety and labelling requirements. • Supporting efficient sampling and development cycles. • Maintaining product development schedules

3. Technical skills

Garment measurement	Measure garments accurately using industry-standard methods.
Garment specification measurement (Points of Measure)	Develop and interpret garment measurement specifications.

Understanding garment grading and grading of POMs.	Understand how POM are graded across a size range.
Product specification management	Maintain detailed product documentation including garment measurement specifications, graded POMs, care instructions and compliance information.
Bill of materials development	Define fabrics, trims and components.
Sampling coordination	Manage prototype and development samples including measuring garments during sample evaluation and updating specifications following fit reviews.
Cost awareness	Understand garment costing and manufacturing constraints.
Garment construction knowledge	Understand sewing and assembly processes.
Supplier communication	Coordinate development activities with manufacturers.
PLM systems	Use product lifecycle management software.
Quality standards knowledge and verification	Possess knowledge of and verify that garments comply with brand, customer and regulatory requirements. including product labelling, care labelling and mandatory product safety requirements.

4. Generic Skills

Organisation	Manage complex product development documentation.
Communication	Coordinate information between design, sourcing and production teams.
Problem solving	Resolve development and sampling issues.
Collaboration	Work closely with designers, technicians and suppliers.
Attention to detail	Ensure accuracy of product specifications including accuracy of garment measurements, graded specifications and compliance documentation.
Time management	Maintain product development schedules.

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	• Digital product lifecycle management platforms. • 3D digital product development workflows. • Data-driven product cost optimisation. • Sustainable materials and product development practices. • Integration of digital design and sourcing systems.
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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

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7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Product Development Assistant → Product Developer → Senior Product Developer → Product Development Manager
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8. Classification

Australian Qualifications Framework	AQF Level 4-5
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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