

SSAPP18 Presser / Steamer

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	Finishing and Dispatch
Job role	SSAPP18 Presser / Steamer
Job role description	Performs garment pressing and steam finishing operations within textile, clothing and footwear production environments. The role involves operating industrial pressing equipment, steam presses and finishing tools to remove creases, shape garments, set seams and ensure garments meet required quality and presentation standards prior to packing, dispatch or retail sale.
Performance expectations	• Operate industrial pressing and steaming equipment safely and efficiently. • Achieve consistent garment finish and presentation quality. • Remove creases and shape garments according to specifications. • Set seams, pleats and garment structure using steam and pressure. • Identify garment defects or finishing issues. • Meet daily finishing production targets. • Maintain safe work practices when using heated equipment and steam. • Maintain clean and organised finishing work areas.
Specialisation	Industrial garment pressing, steam finishing, seam setting, shaping garments and final garment presentation prior to packing and dispatch.
Application in other TCF sectors	• Apparel manufacturing finishing operations. • Garment repair and alteration services. • Dry cleaning and textile care operations. • Textile finishing facilities preparing garments for retail sale.

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	• Press garments using industrial irons or pressing machines. • Apply steam finishing to remove creases and wrinkles. • Shape garments and set seams during finishing. • Inspect garments for finishing defects. • Prepare garments for packing or dispatch. • Handle garments carefully to prevent damage. • Maintain pressing equipment and workstations. • Report finishing defects or equipment issues.
Critical work functions	• Ensuring garments meet presentation and quality standards. • Supporting efficient garment finishing processes. • Preventing fabric damage during pressing. • Maintaining consistent garment shape and appearance. • Supporting quality control prior to dispatch. • Maintaining safe operation of heated and steam equipment.

3. Technical skills

Industrial pressing equipment	Operate steam presses, vacuum tables and industrial irons.
Steam finishing techniques	Apply steam to remove creases and shape garments.
Temperature control	Adjust pressing temperature according to fabric type.
Fabric handling	Handle garments carefully to avoid damage or distortion.
Garment shaping	Shape collars, sleeves and seams during finishing.
Quality inspection	Identify finishing defects and fabric issues.
Equipment maintenance	Perform basic cleaning and maintenance of pressing equipment.
Workplace safety	Follow WHS practices when working with steam and heated equipment.

4. Generic Skills

Attention to detail	Ensure garments meet required presentation standards.
Time management	Maintain finishing productivity and meet production schedules.
Communication	Report garment defects or production issues.
Teamwork	Work collaboratively with finishing and production teams.
Reliability	Follow finishing procedures consistently.
Organisation	Maintain tidy and efficient finishing workstations.

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	• Automated garment finishing systems. • Energy-efficient pressing technologies. • Digitally controlled steam pressing equipment. • Sustainable garment finishing practices. • Integrated finishing lines within automated production environments.
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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 or equivalent.

7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Garment Finishing Assistant → Presser / Steamer → Senior Finishing Operator → Production Supervisor
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8. Classification

Australian Qualifications Framework	AQF Level 2-3
Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Skill Levels	Skill Level 5
Open Source Classification of Occupations for Australia (OSCA)	839133 Fabric and Textile Factory Worker



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