

SSAPP24 Sewing Technician / Machinist - Apparel

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 - Sewing and Assembly
Job role	SSAPP24 Sewing Technician / Machinist - Apparel
Job role description	Constructs garments using industrial sewing machines and specialised equipment in cut and sewn apparel manufacturing. The Sewing Technician / Machinist joins garment components such as panels, sleeves, collars and pockets according to production specifications and quality standards. The role requires precision sewing skills, knowledge of garment construction and the ability to operate a range of industrial sewing machines.
Performance expectations	- Operate industrial sewing machines safely and efficiently. - Construct garments according to technical specifications and patterns. - Maintain consistent seam quality and garment construction standards. - Handle fabrics and garment components carefully to avoid damage. - Identify and report sewing defects or material faults. - Maintain production output targets. - Follow workplace safety procedures and equipment guidelines. - Maintain clean and organised workstations.
Specialisation	Garment construction using industrial sewing equipment including lockstitch, overlock, coverstitch and specialised sewing machines.
Application in other TCF sectors	- Uniform and workwear manufacturing. - Technical textile assembly operations. - Footwear and leather goods stitching operations. - Garment repair and alteration services. - Small-scale clothing production and custom garment manufacturing.

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	• Prepare garment components for sewing operations. • Operate industrial sewing machines to assemble garments. • Sew seams, hems, pockets, collars and other garment components. • Maintain consistent seam quality and alignment. • Inspect garments during assembly to identify defects. • Adjust machine settings for different fabrics and sewing tasks. • Meet production targets and workflow requirements. • Maintain sewing equipment and workstations.
Critical work functions	• Maintaining consistent garment construction quality. • Ensuring accurate assembly of garment components. • Preventing damage to fabrics and materials. • Supporting efficient garment production workflows. • Maintaining operator productivity and efficiency. • Ensuring garments meet product specifications and quality standards.

3. Technical skills

Industrial sewing machine operation	Operate lockstitch, overlock and other sewing machines.
Garment construction techniques	Understand garment assembly and sewing methods.
Fabric handling	Handle different fabric types during sewing operations.
Machine adjustment	Adjust machine tension, stitch length and settings.
Quality inspection	Inspect seams and garments for defects.
Production workflow understanding	Understand garment assembly sequence in production.
Component alignment	Align garment panels and components accurately.
Workplace safety	Follow WHS procedures when operating sewing machinery.

4. Generic Skills

Attention to detail	Ensure seams and garment construction meet quality standards.
Manual dexterity	Handle fabrics and operate sewing equipment precisely.
Problem solving	Identify sewing faults and adjust machine settings.
Communication	Report production or quality issues to supervisors.
Teamwork	Work effectively with production teams.
Time management	Maintain production efficiency and meet output targets.

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	• Automated and programmable sewing technologies. • Digital production workflow systems. • Sustainable garment manufacturing techniques.
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	- Integration of sewing operations with digital production planning. - Advanced technical textiles sewing techniques.
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6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

Entry-level preparation	MSTSS00015 Industrial Sewing Skill Set or equivalent.
Advanced development	MST31022 Certificate III in Apparel, Fashion and Textiles or equivalent.

7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Production Assistant → Sewing Technician / Machinist → Senior Machinist → Production Team Leader
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8. Classification

Australian Qualifications Framework	AQF Level 2-3
Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Skill Levels	Skill Level 4
Open Source Classification of Occupations for Australia (OSCA)	731431 Sewing Machinist



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