

SSAPP26 Technical Designer / Garment Technician

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	SSAPP26 Technical Designer / Garment Technician
Job role description	Translates garment design concepts into technically detailed specifications suitable for manufacturing. The Technical Designer / Garment Technician prepares technical packs, measurements, Points of Measure (POM), grading specifications, construction details, care instructions, labelling requirements and quality standards for apparel products including cut and sew garments and knitwear. The role works closely with designers, product developers, patternmakers and offshore manufacturers to ensure garments meet fit, quality, compliance and production requirements. The role applies garment measurement techniques and a sound understanding of garment construction and basic patternmaking principles to evaluate fit, identify technical issues and support pattern and specification improvements.
Performance expectations	• Prepare accurate garment measurements, POM and grading specifications. • Measure development and production garments using standard industry measurement methods. • Apply garment construction and basic patternmaking knowledge to analyse and resolve fit issues. • Prepare detailed technical packs and garment specifications. • Define measurements, tolerances and construction standards. • Collaborate with designers to ensure designs are technically feasible. • Review samples and prototypes for construction and quality issues. • Manage fit approvals and update technical documentation. • Assign care instructions and mandatory product labelling requirements.

	• Ensure technical specifications comply with relevant product safety and labelling requirements, including childrenswear where applicable. • Support communication with offshore manufacturers. • Ensure garments meet brand quality standards. • Maintain accurate product development documentation.
Specialisation	Technical garment specification development, fit management and production documentation.
Application in other TCF sectors	• Footwear product technical specification development. • Technical textile product development. • Uniform and workwear garment engineering. • Outdoor and performance apparel technical development. • Manufacturing specification development in other sewn product industries.

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	• Measure garments and prepare accurate POM specifications. • Develop and maintain graded measurement charts and size specifications. • Verify garment measurements throughout sample development and fit approval stages. • Collaborate with patternmakers to recommend technical pattern modifications arising from fit evaluations. • Develop technical packs including measurements and construction details. • Prepare bill of materials and trim specifications. • Review garment samples and development prototypes. • Conduct fit sessions and record fit comments. • Communicate technical revisions to suppliers and product developers. • Maintain measurement charts and grading specifications. • Monitor garment construction quality during development. • Assign care instructions, fibre content information and product labelling requirements. • Review garment specifications for compliance with regulatory and brand requirements. • Update product documentation through the development cycle.
Critical work functions	• Ensuring garment designs translate accurately into manufacturable products. • Maintaining accurate garment measurements, POM and grading specifications. • Identifying fit issues and recommending appropriate specification or pattern modifications. • Maintaining consistency in garment measurements and fit. • Supporting efficient communication between design and manufacturing teams. • Preventing quality and construction errors during development. • Maintaining accurate product technical documentation. • Ensuring garment specifications meet brand, regulatory and product safety requirements.

	- Supporting compliant garment development through accurate care instruction and product labelling. - Ensuring garments meet brand and regulatory standards.
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3. Technical skills

Technical pack development	Prepare detailed product specification documentation.
Garment construction knowledge	Understand sewing methods and garment assembly.
Fit evaluation	Assess garment fit and recommend technical adjustments.
Garment measurement and specification	Measure garments accurately using industry-standard measurement methods and develop POM, graded measurement charts and measurement tolerances.
Fabric and trim knowledge	Understand material performance and suitability.
Patternmaking fundamentals	Apply basic patternmaking principles to understand garment construction, evaluate fit issues and communicate appropriate technical modifications with patternmakers.
Product development systems	Use Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) and product documentation systems.
Quality control knowledge	Identify construction and quality issues during development.
Grading	Apply garment grading principles, grading increments and size specifications to ensure consistent fit across the size range.
Product compliance and labelling	Prepare care instructions, fibre content information and mandatory product labelling in accordance with legislative, safety and brand requirements, including childrenswear compliance where applicable.
Garment measurement	Measure prototypes, fit samples and production garments accurately to verify compliance with technical specifications.
Garment sketching	Prepare technical sketches using software such as Adobe Illustrator or Affinity Designer.

4. Generic Skills

Attention to detail	Ensure precision in garment specifications.
Communication	Explain technical requirements to suppliers and teams.
Problem solving	Resolve fit and construction issues.
Collaboration	Work closely with designers, patternmakers and developers.
Organisation	Manage product documentation and revision control.
Time management	Maintain development timelines.

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	- Digital product lifecycle management systems. 3D garment fit analysis tools. - Digital sample evaluation platforms. - Sustainable garment engineering techniques.
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	• Integration of digital design and production systems. • Digital garment measurement technologies. • Digital compliance and product traceability 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.

7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Technical Assistant → Technical Designer / Garment Technician → Senior Technical Designer → Product Development Manager
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8. Classification

Australian Qualifications Framework	AQF Level 3-5
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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