

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, construction details 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 and production requirements.
Performance expectations	• 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 • 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	• 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 • Update product documentation through the development cycle
Critical work functions	• Ensuring garment designs translate accurately into manufacturable products • 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 garments meet brand and regulatory standards

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.
Measurement specification	Develop measurement charts and tolerances.
Fabric and trim knowledge	Understand material performance and suitability.
Pattern awareness	Work closely with patternmakers on garment structure.
Product development systems	Use PLM and product documentation systems.
Quality control knowledge	Identify construction and quality issues during development.

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 • Integration of digital design and production 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 4-5
Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Skill Levels	Skill Level 2 – Apparel Technical Specialist
Open Source Classification of Occupations for Australia (OSCA)	Technical Designer – Apparel



Skills Insight is a Jobs and Skills Council funded by the Australian Government Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.