

SSAPP33 Knitting Machine Operator – Whole Garment / Seamless

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	Knitwear Production
Job role	SSAPP33 Knitting Machine Operator – Whole Garment / Seamless
Job role description	Operates computerised knitting machines used to produce whole garment or seamless knitwear products. The role involves setting up knitting programs, loading yarns, monitoring machine performance and ensuring garments are produced to required specifications. Whole garment operators work with advanced knitting technology capable of producing complete garments without seams, reducing assembly requirements and improving manufacturing efficiency.
Performance expectations	• Operate whole garment knitting machines safely and efficiently. • Load yarn packages and prepare machines for knitting production. • Monitor knitting programs and machine performance. • Ensure garments meet design specifications and quality standards. • Identify knitting faults and correct machine settings. • Maintain consistent production output and minimise downtime. • Follow machine safety procedures and production protocols. • Maintain clean and organised machine work areas.
Specialisation	Whole garment knitting technology, seamless knitwear production, computerised knitting machine operation and advanced knitwear manufacturing processes.
Application in other TCF sectors	• Knitwear manufacturing using flatbed machines. • Technical textile production using advanced knitting technologies.

	- Apparel manufacturing environments integrating knitted components. - Other textile production environments using automated knitting machinery.
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2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	- Set up whole garment knitting machines for production runs. - Load yarn packages and thread machines correctly. - Operate computerised knitting programs. - Monitor knitting processes during garment production. - Inspect garments for knitting faults or irregularities. - Adjust machine settings to maintain knitting quality. - Record production output and machine performance. - Perform routine machine cleaning and maintenance.
Critical work functions	- Ensuring garments are produced accurately according to knitting programs. - Maintaining consistent knitting quality and garment structure. - Minimising machine downtime and production interruptions. - Preventing yarn breakage and knitting defects. - Supporting efficient knitwear manufacturing operations. - Ensuring garments meet production and quality specifications.

3. Technical skills

Whole garment machine operation	Operate seamless knitting machines used to produce complete garments.
Knitting program monitoring	Monitor machine software controlling garment construction.
Yarn handling	Load and manage yarn feeds during knitting operations.
Machine adjustment	Adjust machine settings to maintain knitting quality.
Knitwear construction knowledge	Understand garment structure produced through seamless knitting.
Fault detection	Identify knitting faults such as dropped stitches or yarn breakage.
Production monitoring	Track output and machine performance during production.
Workplace safety	Follow WHS procedures when operating textile machinery.

4. Generic Skills

Attention to detail	Ensure garments meet design and quality requirements.
Problem solving	Identify and resolve knitting machine issues.
Communication	Report production issues and machine faults.
Teamwork	Work collaboratively within knitwear production teams.
Time management	Maintain production schedules and machine utilisation.
Organisation	Maintain tidy and efficient machine workstations.

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	• Advanced seamless knitting technologies. • Digital knitwear design integration. • Automated knitting machine monitoring systems. • Integration of knitting machines with digital manufacturing systems. • Sustainable knitwear production technologies.
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6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

Entry-level preparation	MEM10119 Certificate I in Engineering or equivalent.
Advanced development	MEM31822 Certificate III in Engineering - Textile Mechanic or equivalent.

7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Knitting Machine Assistant → Whole Garment Knitting Machine Operator → Senior Knitwear Technician → Knitwear Production Supervisor
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8. Classification

Australian Qualifications Framework	AQF Level 2-4
Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Skill Levels	Skill Level 4
Open Source Classification of Occupations for Australia (OSCA)	731432 Textile or footwear production machine operator



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