

SSAPP36 Linking Operator

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	SSAPP36 Linking Operator
Job role description	Operates linking machines used to join knitted garment components during knitwear production. The role involves accurately aligning knitted panels such as sleeves, collars and body pieces and linking them together using specialised linking equipment. Linking Operators ensure seams are consistent, secure and aligned with garment specifications while maintaining production efficiency and quality standards.
Performance expectations	• Operate knitwear linking machines safely and efficiently. • Accurately align knitted garment panels for linking. • Produce consistent and secure seams during garment assembly. • Identify and report knitting defects or alignment issues. • Maintain required production output and quality standards. • Handle delicate knitted fabrics carefully to prevent damage. • Follow workplace safety and equipment operating procedures. • Maintain clean and organised production work areas.
Specialisation	Knitwear garment assembly, linking of knitted panels, seam alignment and finishing of knitwear garments prior to final finishing operations.
Application in other TCF sectors	• Textile garment assembly environments using specialised sewing or joining techniques. • Technical textile assembly where precision joining of fabric components is required. • Apparel manufacturing environments requiring specialised seam finishing techniques. • Garment repair and alteration services involving knitwear construction.

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	- Align knitted garment panels for linking. - Operate linking machines to join garment components. - Adjust machine settings to suit yarn and fabric types. - Inspect seams for alignment and stitch quality. - Handle knitted garments carefully during assembly. - Identify knitting faults or panel mismatches. - Maintain linking equipment and workstations. - Record production output where required.
Critical work functions	- Ensuring accurate joining of knitted garment components. - Maintaining consistent seam quality and garment appearance. - Preventing distortion or damage to knitted fabrics. - Supporting efficient knitwear garment assembly operations. - Maintaining productivity and quality targets. - Ensuring garments are ready for finishing and pressing.

3. Technical skills

Linking machine operation	Operate knitwear linking machines to join knitted garment panels.
Garment panel alignment	Align garment components accurately before linking.
Yarn and stitch handling	Work with knitted yarn structures without damaging fibres.
Machine adjustment	Adjust linking machine settings according to fabric and yarn types.
Knitwear construction knowledge	Understand knitwear garment assembly methods.
Seam inspection	Inspect seams for strength, alignment and consistency.
Production workflow understanding	Understand garment assembly processes within knitwear production.
Workplace safety	Follow WHS practices when operating textile machinery.

4. Generic Skills

Attention to detail	Ensure accurate seam alignment and garment assembly.
Manual dexterity	Handle delicate knit fabrics and machine operations precisely.
Communication	Report garment defects or production issues.
Teamwork	Work collaboratively with knitwear production teams.
Reliability	Follow production procedures and schedules consistently.
Organisation	Maintain tidy and efficient workstations.

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	- Automated linking and garment assembly technologies. - Digitally controlled knitwear assembly equipment. - Integrated knitwear production systems. - Sustainable knitwear manufacturing techniques.
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	Advanced knitwear production workflow monitoring.
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6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

Entry-level preparation	MEM10119 Certificate I in Engineering or equivalent.
Advanced development	MEM20219 Certificate II in Engineering - Production Technology.

7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Knitwear Production Assistant → Linking Operator → Senior Knitwear Technician → Knitwear Production Supervisor.
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8. Classification

Australian Qualifications Framework	AQF Level 2
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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