

SSAPP39 Label Printing and Application 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	Manufacturing – Printing, Decoration and Surface Finishing
Job role	SSAPP39 Label Printing and Application Technician
Job role description	Prints and applies labels, tags and identification elements to garments and textile products using specialised printing and application systems to meet regulatory, branding and production requirements. In apparel production—where product identification, compliance and branding are critical—the Label Printing and Application Technician prepares label designs, operates label printing equipment and applies labels accurately to garments. The role supports integration with production, inventory and garment tracking systems.
Performance expectations	- Producing labels that meet design, regulatory and branding requirements. - Maintaining accuracy in label content, placement and attachment. - Operating label printing and application equipment efficiently and safely. - Ensuring compliance with labelling regulations and standards. - Minimising errors, rework and material waste. - Meeting production targets and timelines. - Ensuring correct data, barcodes and tracking information. - Maintaining equipment performance and reporting faults. - Following workplace safety and operational procedures. - Supporting integration with production and tracking systems.
Specialisation	Barcode labelling, RFID tagging, care labels, branding labels, automated labelling systems, garment tracking integration.
Application in other TCF sectors	Apparel production supporting garment labelling and branding.

	• Textile manufacturing supporting product identification and compliance. • Footwear production supporting size, care and branding labels. • Leather goods production supporting product identification. • Dry cleaning and laundry supporting garment tracking and tagging. • Uniform and workwear production supporting compliance labelling. • Manufacturing industries supporting product identification systems.
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2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	• Preparing label designs and data for printing. • Operating label printing equipment. • Printing labels including barcodes and identification tags. • Applying labels to garments or textile products. • Ensuring correct placement and attachment. • Inspecting labels for accuracy and quality. • Maintaining equipment and performing basic troubleshooting. • Coordinating with production and tracking systems.
Critical work functions	• Ensuring accuracy of label content, including compliance information. • Maintaining correct placement and attachment of labels. • Preventing errors in product identification and tracking. • Meeting production deadlines and efficiency targets. • Maintaining quality control across labelling processes. • Supporting integration with inventory and tracking systems. • Ensuring safe and compliant equipment operation.

3. Technical skills

Label printing systems	Operating thermal, digital and specialised label printers.
Data and barcode systems	Generating and printing barcodes and tracking data.
Label application	Applying labels manually or using automated systems.
Compliance labelling	Ensuring labels meet regulatory requirements.
Material handling	Selecting appropriate label materials and adhesives.
Equipment maintenance	Maintaining and troubleshooting printing and application systems.
System integration	Integrating labelling with ERP and tracking systems.

4. Generic Skills

Attention to detail	Ensuring accuracy in label content and placement.
Technical aptitude	Working with printing and application systems.

Time management	Meeting production timelines.
Problem solving	Resolving labelling and system issues.
Communication	Working with production and inventory teams.
Quality focus	Maintaining high standards of accuracy and compliance.

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	• Using RFID and advanced garment tracking systems. • Integrating labelling with digital production workflows. • Using automated labelling and tagging systems. • Applying sustainability-focused labelling materials. • Using real-time tracking and data systems. • Supporting Industry 4.0 production environments.
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6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

Entry-level preparation	MST20722 Certificate II in Apparel, Fashion and Textiles or equivalent.
Advanced development	MST31022 Certificate III in Apparel, Fashion and Textiles or equivalent.

7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Production Assistant → Label Technician → Senior Technician → Production Supervisor → Production Manager.
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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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