

CS25 Sewing Machine 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	Cross sector
Job role	CS25 Sewing Machine Technician
Job role description	Maintains, services and repairs industrial sewing machines and related equipment used in clothing and footwear production and repair. Ensures machines operate safely, efficiently and to required quality standards. Typically, present in medium enterprises or servicing multiple small businesses.
Performance expectations	• Maintain optimal machine performance and reliability. • Minimise equipment downtime. • Ensure machines meet safety standards. • Support quality stitching performance. • Maintain accurate service and maintenance records. • Respond promptly to repair requests.
Specialisation	• Industrial lockstitch and overlock machines. • Heavy-duty leather and footwear machines. • Walking foot and post-bed machines. • Motor and drive systems. • Preventative maintenance programs.
Application in other TCF sectors	The skills described in this profile are transferable across multiple sectors of the textile, TCF industry and may also be applied in other manufacturing and product-based industries where similar capabilities are required.

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	• Conduct preventative maintenance on sewing machines. • Diagnose and repair mechanical faults. • Adjust machine timing and tension settings. • Replace worn components and parts. • Test machines for stitching quality. • Maintain maintenance logs and documentation. • Provide basic user guidance to operators.
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Critical work functions	• Maintaining consistent stitch quality. • Ensuring safe machine operation. • Minimising production disruption. • Managing spare parts inventory. • Maintaining compliance with electrical and safety standards. • Supporting operator efficiency. • Extending equipment lifespan.
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3. Technical skills

Mechanical troubleshooting	Diagnosing mechanical faults in sewing equipment.
Electrical systems knowledge*	Understanding motors and control systems.
Machine calibration	Adjusting tension, timing and feed systems.
Preventative maintenance planning	Scheduling and recording service intervals.
Spare parts management	Identifying and replacing worn components.
Safety compliance knowledge	Ensuring machines meet safety standards.

*Technical skills identified as emerging skills in TCF industry.

4. Generic Skills

Problem solving	Diagnose and resolve equipment faults efficiently.
Attention to detail	Ensure precise machine calibration.
Time management	Respond to repair requests promptly.
Communication	Explain technical issues to non-technical staff.
Organisation	Maintain structured maintenance records.
Safety awareness	Maintain safe working environment.

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	• Computerised sewing machine diagnostics. • Digital maintenance tracking systems. • Energy-efficient equipment optimisation. • Integration of automated stitching technologies.
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6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

Entry-level preparation	MEM31822 Certificate III in Engineering - Textile Mechanic or equivalent.
Advanced development	MEM40119 Certificate IV in Engineering or equivalent.

7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Sewing Machine Technician → Senior Technician → Maintenance Supervisor.
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8. Classification

Australian Qualifications Framework	AQF Level 3.
Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Skill Levels	Skill Level 3.
Open Source Classification of Occupations for Australia (OSCA)	332299 Metal fitters and machinists nec.



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