

SSMTC06 Cutting Manager

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	Cut and Sewn Products (Non-Garment)
Functional area	Textile Fabrication - Fabric Preparation and Cutting
Job role	SSMTC06 Cutting Manager
Job role description	Leads and manages cutting room operations within the cut and sewn non-garment sector of the TCF industry, ensuring accurate, efficient and cost-effective preparation of materials for downstream fabrication and sewing operations. This role oversees the full cutting room workflow across products such as automotive interiors, upholstery system, industrial covers, transport interiors, bags, tarpaulins, home furnishings, shade column systems and specialised fabricated textile systems. The role is responsible for ensuring that materials including leather, coated fabrics, technical textiles, composites, foams and reinforcement materials are correctly spread, nested, marked and cut according to technical specifications and production schedules. The position ensures material optimisation, waste minimisation and alignment between cutting operations and sewing department requirements. The Cutting Manager coordinates cutting room staff, cutting technologies, scheduling systems and workflow planning to ensure continuous production flow and operational efficiency. The role requires detailed knowledge of material behaviour, grain direction, tension management, pattern accuracy, automated cutting systems and material handling processes. The position also supports quality assurance, inventory control, compliance activities and continuous improvement initiatives while maintaining traceability and operational performance across the cutting process.
Performance expectations	Managing cutting room operations to meet production schedules and workflow requirements.

	• Ensuring accurate cutting and material preparation to specification. • Optimising material utilisation and minimising waste. • Coordinating cutting output with sewing and fabrication department needs. • Maintaining quality standards and dimensional accuracy. • Managing cutting room personnel, equipment and workflow efficiency. • Supporting compliance with safety, quality and operational procedures. • Maintaining traceability and production documentation. • Supporting continuous improvement and operational optimisation.
Specialisation	Cutting room management, marker planning, material optimisation, automated cutting systems, leather cutting, technical textile preparation and production coordination.
Application in other TCF sectors	Automotive interiors, furniture and upholstery manufacturing, marine fabrication, defence textiles, industrial textile products, transport interiors, architectural textiles and technical sewn products.

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	• Managing daily cutting room production schedules and workflow. • Coordinating spreading, nesting, marking and cutting activities. • Supervising cutting room operators and support staff. • Managing manual and automated cutting systems. • Ensuring materials are prepared according to specifications and tolerances. • Monitoring material usage, waste levels and yield efficiency. • Coordinating workflow with sewing, fabrication and logistics teams. • Managing cutting room inventory and material traceability. • Supporting maintenance and calibration of cutting equipment. • Implementing continuous improvement and efficiency initiatives.
Critical work functions	• Ensuring accuracy and consistency of cut components. • Maintaining alignment between cutting output and production demand. • Minimising material waste and production inefficiencies. • Preventing defects arising from incorrect cutting or material handling. • Supporting efficient workflow across fabrication and sewing operations. • Maintaining compliance with quality and safety requirements. • Ensuring traceability and documentation integrity. • Supporting productivity, cost control and operational reliability.

3. Technical skills

Cutting room operations	Managing spreading, nesting, marking and cutting workflows.
Material optimisation	Maximising yield efficiency and minimising waste.
Automated cutting systems	Operating and managing computer numerical control (CNC) and digital cutting technologies.
Technical material knowledge	Understanding behaviour of textiles, leather, composites and foams.
Pattern and marker planning	Interpreting technical specifications and layout systems.
Production coordination	Aligning cutting operations with sewing schedules.
Quality assurance	Ensuring dimensional accuracy and specification compliance.
Documentation and traceability	Maintaining production records and material tracking.

4. Generic Skills

Leadership	Managing teams and coordinating production activities.
Communication	Coordinating with production, technical and logistics teams.
Problem solving	Resolving cutting and workflow issues.
Decision making	Balancing operational, quality and production priorities.
Teamwork	Supporting cross-functional production environments.
Time management	Managing schedules, throughput and deadlines.
Adaptability	Responding to changing production and material requirements.
Professionalism	Maintaining operational accountability and standards.

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	• Advanced nesting and marker optimisation software. • AI-assisted cutting and workflow systems. • Industry 4.0 production monitoring and analytics. • Sustainable material utilisation and waste reduction systems. • Digital integration between CAD, PLM and automated cutting equipment. • Smart manufacturing systems for production planning and traceability.
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6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

Entry-level preparation	MST30222 Certificate III in Manufactured Textile Products or equivalent.
Advanced development	MEM40119 Certificate IV in Engineering or equivalent.

7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Senior Cutter → Cutting Supervisor → Cutting Manager → Production Manager → Operations Manager.
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8. Classification

Australian Qualifications Framework	Level 3-4.
Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Skill Levels	Skill Level 3.
Open Source Classification of Occupations for Australia (OSCA)	399432 Canvas Goods Fabricator.



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