

SSNST14 Multiskilled Fabric Printing 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	Natural and Synthetic Textile Manufacturing
Functional area	Fabric Production
Job role	SSNST14 Multiskilled Fabric Printing Operator
Job role description	Operates, monitors and supports industrial fabric printing systems used in the manufacture of natural and synthetic textiles. The role prepares print pastes and inks, sets up printing equipment, monitors print quality and controls printing processes to achieve product specifications. The role works across woven, knitted and nonwoven fabrics using rotary screen, flat screen, digital textile and transfer printing technologies. It requires knowledge of textile fibres, printing chemistry, colour management, process control and quality requirements. The position collaborates with laboratory personnel, production teams, maintenance technicians and quality staff to maintain efficient, safe and sustainable textile printing operations.
Performance expectations	- Producing printed fabrics that meet colour and design specifications. - Maintaining print registration and colour consistency. - Operating printing equipment safely and efficiently. - Preparing accurate print formulations. - Minimising print defects, waste and reprocessing. - Maintaining production documentation and traceability. - Supporting environmental compliance. - Contributing to productivity and continuous improvement.
Specialisation	Rotary screen printing, flat screen printing, digital textile printing, transfer printing, colour management, textile printing production.
Application in other TCF sectors	- Apparel manufacturing. - Furnishing textiles. - Industrial and technical textiles.

	• Automotive textiles. • Medical textiles. • Performance textiles.
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2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	• Prepare print pastes, inks and chemicals. • Operate rotary, flat screen and digital printing equipment. • Set up print screens and digital files. • Monitor print quality and registration. • Complete drying, fixation and washing processes. • Maintain production records. • Perform routine operator maintenance. • Follow WHS and environmental procedures.
Critical work functions	• Maintain print quality and colour consistency. • Ensure compliance with specifications. • Prevent printing defects. • Support efficient production. • Maintain traceability. • Support quality assurance. • Minimise waste and resource use. • Maintain safe printing operations.

3. Technical skills

Printing operations	Operating rotary screen, flat screen, digital and transfer printing systems.
Printing chemistry	Understanding inks, pigments, dyes and auxiliaries.
Print formulation	Preparing accurate print pastes and ink systems.
Process control	Monitoring viscosity, temperature, pressure, drying and fixation parameters.
Print quality	Assessing registration, sharpness, colour accuracy and repeat alignment.
Textile knowledge	Understanding fibres, fabrics and print behaviour.
Troubleshooting	Identifying and resolving printing faults.
Documentation and traceability	Maintaining production and quality records.
Environmental compliance	Supporting chemical, wastewater and sustainability requirements.

4. Generic Skills

Attention to detail	Maintaining print accuracy and product quality.
Communication	Working with laboratory, production and quality personnel.
Problem solving	Resolving printing and production issues.
Teamwork	Supporting integrated printing operations.

Time management	Meeting production schedules.
Adaptability	Working across different printing technologies.
Reliability	Maintaining consistent production performance.
Professionalism	Following safety, quality and environmental standards.

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	• Digital colour management. • Automated ink dispensing. • Industry 4.0 process monitoring. • AI-assisted print optimisation. • Sustainable printing chemistry. • Water-efficient printing technologies. • Circular textile manufacturing.
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6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

Entry-level preparation	MST40122 Certificate IV in Textile Design and Technology or equivalent.
Advanced development	Advanced enterprise, supplier and technical training in textile printing operations, colour management and sustainable printing technologies.

7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Printing Assistant → Fabric Printing Operator → Multiskilled Fabric Printing Operator → Senior Printing Operator → Printing Team Leader → Printing Supervisor.
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8. Classification

Australian Qualifications Framework	Level 4-5.
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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