



Sewing operator

Description

A sewing operator joins cut pieces of fabric and sews it into a final product- garment or household textile. A sewing operator joins and matches up cut and marked pieces of garment and sews them by using various sewing machines. Sewing machines which vary by method of starting, thread type (for different types of fabric), number of needles and speed of operation, are mainly electronic industrial sewing machines, special machines or automatic short seamer machines. Sewing operators often specialize in certain parts of garment (pocket attaching, lining sewing, collar attaching) or in operating specific machines or automatic machines (electronic sewing machine, overlock sewing machine, button hole sewing machine, embroidery machine, etc.). In addition to machines, a sewing operator uses tools, such as sewing tape measure, thread and needle. Sewing is sometimes done by hand. This job requires good eyesight and precision, as well as good knowledge of and telling the colours and fabrics, as well as good knowledge of all elements and methods of operation of various machines.

A sewing operator works indoors, often in shifts. The working conditions often mean cramped space, long sitting with forced body posture, work under poor lighting and exposure to noise and high temperatures. There is a risk from injury when handling tools and machines.

Desirable traits/requirements

- Manual dexterity
- Good eyesight and precision
- Readiness to work in a sitting position
- Sense of colour, shape and proportion
- Visual imagination and creativity
- Responsibility and reliability
- Being well-organized and team work

Positive aspects:

- A sewing operator's job is versatile, as it includes making of different types of garments or household textile. Work with fabrics develops creativity and sense of beauty.

Negative aspects:

- The job may be physically demanding due to the long periods of sitting and inappropriate norms. Sewing requires precision and constant attention.

Career path/ fields of work

The sewing operator's job requires completion of a three-year secondary vocational education for the occupation of an industrial tailor or appropriate non-formal training program lasting minimum 960 hours.

Individual competences for sewing operator's job can also be acquired through shorter non-formal trainings. Operating machines often requires additional learning and advancement.

Sewing operators work in production plants and smaller workshops for production of all kind of garments and household textile.