

Occupational Certificate

# Sewing Machine Operator



## Qualification Details

SAQA QUALIFICATION ID	97238
QUALIFICATION TYPE	Occupational Certificate
QUALIFICATION TITLE	Sewing Machine Operator
NQF LEVEL	2
DURATION	12 Months
MINIMUM CREDITS	128



## Entry Requirements

To enrol in this qualification, a learner must possess one of the following:  
A Grade 12 National Senior Certificate (NSC) or National Certificate (Vocational) (NCV) at NQF Level 4. An equivalent NQF Level 4 qualification, demonstrating proven proficiency in Communication and Mathematical Literacy.

## Purpose of the Qualification

The primary purpose of this qualification is to enable a learner to operate sewing machinery and equipment to produce products by joining component parts, performing functional requirements, and creating decorative elements according to industry standards.

### A qualified learner will be able to:

- **Prepare the workstation:** Correctly set up the sewing machine, equipment, attachments, and work aids to assemble cut clothing, home textiles, or leather components.
- **Operate machinery:** Expertly join and assemble textile or leather parts for various product types using different machine classes.
- **Perform Quality Control:** Inspect finished component parts and dispose of them according to production specifications and customer requirements.

# Curriculum and Module Breakdown

The qualification consists of three compulsory components aligned with QCTO standards to ensure comprehensive skills development and the benefits of a structured learnership:

1. Knowledge Component
2. Practical Skills Component
3. Work Experience Component



## EISA Eligibility

Before attempting the EISA, a learner must provide a Statement of Results from a skills development provider, confirming successful completion of:

- all knowledge modules
- all practical modules
- all work experience modules

## Knowledge Modules (30 Credits)

These modules provide the theoretical foundation for the trade.

- **KM-01:** Sewing machine technology, materials, and operations
- **KM-02:** Basic clothing and textile production and manufacturing concepts
- **KM-03:** Applied Numerical Literacy in the Clothing Industry
- **KM-04:** Applied English Literacy for the Clothing Industry

## Practical Skill Modules (39 Credits)

These modules involve hands-on training in a controlled environment.

- **PM-01:** Inspect and prepare sewing machine, work aids, equipment, and raw materials for production
- **PM-02:** Pick up, align, and sew cut components using a lock-stitch machine
- **PM-03:** Pick up, align, and sew cut components using an over-lock machine
- **PM-04:** Pick up, align, and sew cut components using a cover seam machine
- **PM-05:** Correctly dispose of joined component parts, including quality checking and output recording

## Work Experience Modules (59 Credits)

These modules represent the application of skills within a real-world manufacturing environment.

- **WM-01:** Preparation of sewing machines and consumables according to company quality and quantity standards
- **WM-02:** Production of sewn products or parts (8 weeks on lock-stitch, 3 weeks on over-lock, and 3 weeks on specialised machinery)
- **WM-03:** Quality control and disposal of sewn products or product parts



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