

Purpose Statement

ABC Level 2 Certificate in Manufacturing Sewn Products (NVQ) (500/5962/2)

ABC Awards is a national Awarding Organisation providing qualifications on the Qualifications Credit Framework, regulated by Ofqual.

Established in 1998, ABC Awards (ABC) is the result of combining more than 180 years of regional examination and assessment practices into one national Awarding Organisation. As a registered charity we are continuing the tradition of our founding organisations that were established by the sector to deliver useful and practical qualifications.

The fashion and textiles sector in the UK covers the whole supply chain, from the processing of raw materials to product manufacture, through wholesale and trading activities, as well as extending to the after-sales servicing of products.

To meet the needs of such a diverse sector, ABC's Fashion & Textiles qualifications cover the following areas: Textiles, Apparel, Tailoring, Leather goods, Footwear and Saddlery work.

ABC Awards is at the forefront of developments within the fashion and textiles sector and has a suite of vocational qualifications from Level 1 to Level 4 which reflect the skills that employers and providers are looking for in learners and employees. Aspects that are covered range from pattern and grading technology, tailoring, garment technology, pattern production and so much more. Learners undertaking ABC qualifications have the opportunity to gain an understanding and appreciation of the skills required to work in this exciting and fast paced industry, along with the knowledge and experience to excel.

ABC Awards is the leading Awarding Organisation for fashion and textiles work-based vocational qualifications.

Overview

What does this qualification cover?

The **ABC Level 2 Certificate in Manufacturing Sewn Products (NVQ) (500/59622)** has been designed for adults and young people who have an interest in the apparel and textiles sector and are looking to develop technical and practical work-related skills that businesses need. This qualification primarily is intended for those who work in the area of creation of sewn products e.g. sewing machinists, soft furnishers, tailors and dressmakers and clothing cutters. It is anticipated that at Level 2 a learner's job role will involve some autonomy and responsibility and the ability to work as part of a team.

Benefits for employees

Ability to:

- undertake a flexible vocational learning route into a wide variety of job roles within the apparel industry and into higher levels of training and education

- develop knowledge related to the apparel industries
- develop skills in apparel sewn products
- develop their own personal growth and engagement in learning
- demonstrate the achievement of knowledge, skills and understanding needed to carry out a particular role and work in the field of manufacturing sewn products
- achievement a nationally recognised Level 2 qualification that is vocationally focused.

Allow employers to:

- add value to their organisations by enhancing the skills and knowledge of those employees who work in the area of creation of sewn products e.g. sewing machinists, soft furnishers, tailors and dressmakers and clothing cutters
- provide a stream of motivated employees equipped with the creative and business skills required for the future
- improve the productivity and growth of the business.

The key topics/skills/knowledge the learner will cover, which are core and which are optional.

The mandatory aspects of this qualification include the fundamentals of health, safety and security at work along with maintenance of the work area for manufacturing sewn products. There are a various optional units which can enable learners to specialise, depending upon their job role:

- Maintain the **quality of production** working with textiles, leather and materials by inspecting materials and products, finding the cause of faults in materials and products, correcting faults and recording details
- **Cutting materials** for manufacturing sewn products via cutting materials, addressing manual, machine and computer aided operations. This will include preparing the work area and equipment for use, obtaining and preparing materials for marking out and recognising and correcting faults that may occur in planning and marking out materials for cutting
- Identifying and sorting the components for the correct sewing sequence, sewing materials to specification within tolerance and forwarding sewn components to the next process recording details
- Prepare their own work area and machine for carrying out **tape sealing** process in the production of clothing and related items. This involves using a manually controlled tape sealing machine, sealing materials to specification and then forwarding the items to the next process and recording the details
- Carry out **hand pressing** in the sewing process. This involves preparing their own work area, selecting and preparing the appropriate equipment, preparing the material for pressing, hand pressing garments using dry and steam irons and utilising the vacuum buck pressing method
- **Dyeing fabric** - this will involve the learner preparing the work area for dyeing, establishing order requirements and specification, setting up the processing operation, starting up the processing operation, monitoring and controlling the quality of the process, completing the processing operation, ensuring the dyed fabrics are to customer specification and protecting the quality of the product during transfer and storage

- **Rotary fabric printing** – this will involve preparing the work area for printing onto rolls of fabric, setting up the processing operation, starting up the processing operation, monitoring and controlling the quality of the process, completing the rotary printing processing operation, ensuring the printed product is to customer specification, protecting the quality of the product during transfer or storage
- **Screen printing** individual items/garments – this will involve preparing the area and screen print onto individual items and pre-sewn garments, setting up the processing operation, starting up the processing operation, monitoring and controlling the quality of the process, completing the processing operation, ensuring the printed item/garment is to customer specification, protecting the quality of the product during transfer or storage
- **Prepare for textile manufacturing operations**, by preparing the appropriate manufacturing equipment, preparing the material for processing and forward materials to the next process safely and knowing how to perform quality checks within the production process.

Who could take this qualification? OR who is this qualification designed for?

All of ABC Awards sewing and textile suite of vocational qualifications have been designed for adults and young people who have an interest in the subject area and are looking to develop work-related skills. This qualification is accessible to those 16 and above.

The ABC Level 2 Certificate in Manufacturing Sewn Products is designed primarily for those who work in the sub-sectors of apparel and textiles, with the main aim of this qualification being to enhance their skills and knowledge. A need for rigorous, employer-led qualifications to support workforce development activity has been identified and this qualification addresses skills gaps identified within the sector.

Specifically the **ABC Level 2 Certificate in Manufacturing Sewn Products (NVQ)** is aimed at those learners who work or want to work within the Apparel/Fashion and Textile industry producing textiles, as the qualification is primarily used as the competence element of the Intermediate Fashion and Textiles Apprenticeship Framework. However, many employers seek to use the qualification to up skill existing employees, to address skills gaps they may have within their business.

Potential job roles that learners could be operating in to complete this qualification are:

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|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Cloth Cutter | • Quality Control Inspector |
| • Sewing Machinist | • Clothing Presser |
| • Tape Sealer | • Dressmaker |
| • Hand Presser | • Clothing Sewing Machinist |

There are no specific qualification requirements for entry onto the Level 2 Certificate in Manufacturing Sewn Products (NVQ) but an example of qualifications that may provide a useful grounding include:

- ABC Awards Level 1 / 2 Fashion and Textiles portfolio

Alternatively voluntary or unpaid employment in a fashion and textiles role could provide a useful entry onto this qualification. However, to commence the qualification learners must be in work.

What could this qualification lead to?

Will the qualification lead to employment, and if so, in which job role at which level?

For those successfully achieving the ABC Level Certificate in Manufacturing Sewn Products (NVQ), there are available career developments into higher level job roles such as:

- Apparel Team Leader / Supervisor
- Dressmaker
- Bespoke Pattern Cutter (manual/CAD)
- Garment Technologist
- Production Pattern Cutter (manual/CAD)
- Sample Machinist
- Clothing Alteration Hand
- Pattern Grader (Manual/CAD).

Will the qualification support progression to further learning, if so, what to?

Learners who successfully complete **ABC Level 3 Certificate in Footwear and Leather (NVQ)** have the opportunity to progress onto a variety of vocational qualifications:

- Advanced Apprenticeship in Fashion and Textiles (Leather goods)
- Advanced Apprenticeship in Fashion and Textiles (tailoring)
- ABC Level 3 NVQ in Apparel Manufacturing Technology
- ABC Level 3 Diploma in Bespoke Cutting and Tailoring (NVQ)
- ABC Awards Level 3 Fashion and Textiles.

Ultimately depending upon the individual, learners can progress through various routes in their chosen careers and follow further studies such as relevant Level 4 programmes of learning e.g. Foundation Degrees, Higher National Diplomas / Certificates, BA Honours Degrees and related professional courses. An example of further progression could be:

- Bsc (Hons) Textile or Leather Technology or for a more vocational route
- ABC Fashion and Textiles : Technical Higher Level Apprenticeship (employers such as ASOS, Johnsons Apparel master, New Look, George at Asda, Matalan, Next, Courtalds, Sainsbury's are engaged amongst other leading retailers and textile manufacturers).

Who supports this qualification?

(i) Employers

- Bamboo Textiles Ltd
- Camira Fabrics
- Lantex
- Lees Newsome
- Linton Tweeds Ltd
- Rowlinson Knitwear Ltd
- SDC Enterprises Ltd
- Stork Brothers Ltd
- Westwood Yarns Ltd
- Wooltex UK Ltd
- WT Johnson and Sons
- UKFT
- Barry Sheerman MP
- Jason McCartney MP