

AIRCRAFT LIFE SUPPORT AND FURNISHING TRADESPERSON

ALSO KNOWN AS:

AIRCRAFT INTERIOR SPECIALIST

AIRCRAFT CABIN SYSTEMS TECHNICIAN

THE UNSUNG HEROES OF AVIATION SAFETY AND COMFORT.

Aircraft Life Support and Furnishing Tradespersons are the unsung heroes of aviation safety and comfort. They blend the precision of aeronautical engineering with the artistry of interior design, ensuring that every flight is not just a journey, but a secure and comfortable experience. For those with a passion for aviation and a knack for detailed craftsmanship, this role offers a unique opportunity to shape the future of air travel from the inside out.

KEY SKILLS

Skills which may benefit anyone considering a job as a aircraft life support and furnishing tradesperson include:

- ✔ Attention to detail
- ✔ Manual dexterity
- ✔ Problem solving
- ✔ Safety conscious
- ✔ Technical proficiency

CAREER PROGRESSION

In this role, you may have the opportunity to progress to other positions. Career progression opportunities include:

- Team Leader
- Fabrication Tradesperson
- Furniture Finisher
- Upholsterer

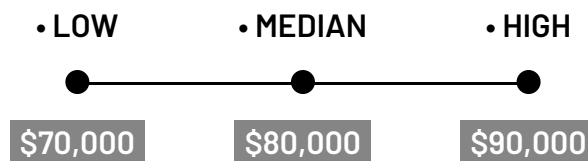
VALUES & ATTRIBUTES

Values and attributes of anyone considering a job as a aircraft life support and furnishing tradesperson include:

- ✔ Precision
- ✔ Reliable
- ✔ Adaptable
- ✔ Team Player
- ✔ Continuous learning
- ✔ Investigative – “Thinker”

SALARY EXPECTATION

The expected salary for an Aircraft Life Support and Furnishing Tradesperson can vary across different areas of manufacturing and may vary as you become more experienced.



RELATED INDUSTRIES

► Aerospace and Defence ► Transport Equipment and Machinery

RECOMMENDED SCHOOL SUBJECTS

- Aerospace Systems
- Engineering Skills
- Furnishing Skills

CORE SCHOOL SUBJECTS

- Essential Mathematics
- Essential English

JOB OVERVIEW

Aircraft Life Support and Furnishing Tradespersons play a crucial role in the aviation industry, specialising in the maintenance, repair, and installation of aircraft interiors and life support equipment. They work on a wide range of components, from seating and cabin furnishings to critical safety systems like oxygen masks and life rafts. Their work directly impacts passenger comfort, aircraft aesthetics, and most importantly, the safety of everyone on board.

These skilled professionals use a variety of tools and equipment, from basic hand tools to sophisticated testing devices for life support systems. They must be proficient in working with diverse materials including fabrics, metals, composites, and electronic components. A deep understanding of aviation regulations, safety protocols, and the unique challenges of airborne environments is essential for this role.

A typical day might involve inspecting and maintaining anti-G suits, repairing aircraft seats, packing parachutes, or installing new cabin furnishings. They often collaborate with engineers, designers, and other aviation professionals to ensure all modifications meet strict safety standards and regulatory requirements. Many Aircraft Life Support and Furnishing Tradespersons work within the Australian Defence Force (ADF), maintaining and repairing equipment for military aircraft, which adds an extra layer of importance to their role in national security and defence readiness. As the aviation industry evolves, these tradespersons must stay updated on the latest technologies and materials to continue delivering innovative and compliant solutions for aircraft interiors and life support systems.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Your role may include duties as follows:

1. Maintain and repair aircraft seating, restraint systems, and cabin furnishings
2. Inspect, pack, and maintain life support equipment such as parachutes and life rafts
3. Install and service oxygen systems and other emergency equipment
4. Fabricate and repair fabric components for aircraft interiors
5. Ensure all work complies with aviation safety standards and regulations

HOW TO BECOME A AIRCRAFT LIFE SUPPORT AND FURNISHING TRADESPERSON

Becoming an Aircraft Life Support and Furnishing Tradesperson typically requires completion of a formal qualification, such as the Certificate III in Aircraft Life Support and Furnishing (MEA30322). This qualification is designed for those working in the Australian Defence Force (ADF) or in Aircraft Maintenance Organisations (AMOs). Here are the steps to pursue this career:

1. Complete Year 12 with a focus on technical subjects like mathematics and physics.
2. You may find it useful to undertake a Certificate II in Aeroskills (MEA20418) while you are at school or before commencing an apprenticeship.
3. Apply for roles with the ADF or with Aircraft Maintenance Organisations. Even if a role isn't advertised often, you can register your interest and submit your resume online to express your interest.
4. Enrol in the Certificate III in Aircraft Life Support and Furnishing (MEA30322)
5. Obtain relevant industry certifications and security clearances as required

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING

The primary qualification for this role is the Certificate III in Aircraft Life Support and Furnishing (MEA30322). This course provides comprehensive training in all aspects of aircraft interior maintenance and life support systems.

For career progression, consider other qualifications including:

- Certificate IV in Aeronautical Life Support Equipment (MEA41122)

UNIVERSITY & HIGHER EDUCATION

While a university degree is not typically required for this role, further education can open doors to advanced positions in aviation maintenance and management. Relevant degrees include:

- Bachelor of Aviation (Management)
- Bachelor of Engineering Technology (Aircraft Maintenance)

These programs provide a broader understanding of aviation systems, engineering principles, and management practices. They can lead to roles such as Senior Maintenance Engineer, Aviation Safety Manager, or Aircraft Certification Specialist. The skills gained through these programs include advanced problem-solving, project management, and a deep understanding of aviation regulations and technologies. This higher-level education can be particularly valuable for those aiming to move into leadership positions or specialise in aircraft systems design and integration.