

AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN



Do you want to work in a challenging, constantly advancing & exciting industry that actively encourages women to participate and provides the following opportunities?

- work with the latest technology
- career advancement
- capacity to earn high income with experience
- join the AFD
- advance your education and training
- become an industry specialist.



OVERVIEW OF INDUSTRY

The Aerospace sector maintains and repairs commercial and military aircraft, as well as manufacturing aircraft and aircraft components. There were 920 businesses employing 10,900 people in 2018, with 80% of businesses located in New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria.

The aviation maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) sector is made up of a mix of original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), independent service providers, and airlines with internal MRO capabilities. Services offered include line and heavy maintenance, repair, overhaul and modification of complete aircraft, aircraft engines and accessories, airframes and systems, aircraft systems and components, avionics, and instruments.

WHAT DOES AN AIRCRAFT TECHNICIAN DO

Aircraft maintenance personnel assist the Aircraft Engineer to complete work across three occupational specialisations—

Avionics - which is the installation, maintenance, modification, repair, and fault diagnostics of electrical, electronic, instrument and radio systems. **Mechanical** - which is the overhaul, repair, modify and test airframe and engine components in a workshop. **Structures**- which is the production, maintenance, and repair of sheet metal, bonded and non-metallic composite material and components on an aircraft, including the framework, internal ribs and the aircraft fuselage, wings, and engine cowlings.

This is a highly regulated industry and to work in this sector you will need to meet licencing requirements (where applicable) from the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) and the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA).

“I love working as an aircraft maintenance person because there are so many opportunities to advance my career.”

For further information or advise contact

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Selection Criteria:

- *High level of understanding of the importance of WHS compliance
- *Above average Maths and English results in HSC
- *Physically fit and able to climb ladders or work in confined spaces
- *Understanding of, or interest in regulatory requirements and attention to detail
- *Ability to demonstrate manual dexterity and co-ordination
- *Accuracy and speed when completing repetitive tasks as well as the ability to respond quickly to shut down machinery when required
- *Good communication skills and ability to work as part of a team
- *Ability to maintain accurate and confidential records

TASKS YOU MAY BE REQUIRED TO DO

- *interpret diagrams, schematics, technical drawings, standards and specifications
- *inspect, test, remove and instal aircraft assemblies, equipment and components
- *disassemble and reassemble of aircraft parts, frames and components
- *test, diagnose and maintain communication, instrumentation and electronic systems and equipment
- *inspect, maintain, service, repair and fault diagnose electro-mechanical systems, components and accessories including aircraft engines, ancillary motors and engine accessories, electrical systems, flight control systems and subassemblies of aircraft frames
- *prepare and use aircraft support equipment
- *conduct routine pre-flight inspections prepare and plan safe work schedule
- *prepare and package technical equipment for transportation
- *amend and maintain technical records and publications

Training Requirements and Pathways

Entry level

The pre-apprenticeship qualification MEA20418 - Certificate II in Aeroskills can be completed as an SBAT or trainee and is the minimum requirement to commencing work as an aircraft maintenance person. This usually takes 12- 24 months to complete.

Trade qualification:

There are three options for training qualifications for this occupation depending on what area you are employed in –

- MEA40618 - Certificate IV in Aeroskills (Avionics)
- MEA40718 - Certificate IV in Aeroskills (Mechanical)
- MEA41318 - Certificate IV in Aeroskills (Structures)

Apprenticeships usually take 42 to 48 months to complete and are available as school-based apprenticeships.

You may also need to obtain the following –

- Australian Government Security Clearance
- aptitude testing

Income and future opportunities

The industry is currently experiencing a skills shortage so there are many opportunities to gain employment as an aircraft maintenance person. The Expert Panel on Aviation Skills and Training found there is a serious shortage of licensed engineers available to oversee the maintenance of aircraft to the required regulatory standards.

This occupation has a large variation in wages due to how diverse the role can be; trainees and apprentices are usually paid the award wage but employers experiencing a skills shortage may pay above the award to new employees.

According to Fairwork Australia a first-year apprentice will receive \$548.70 per week. The average wage for experienced aircraft maintenance persons income ranges from \$63,000-\$85,000 depending on who your employer is. The ADF currently advertise this position at \$73,000 per annum plus superannuation.

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