

SSCAR01 Production Operator – Tufting

1. Job role

TCF sub-sector	Carpet and Textile Floor Covering Manufacturing
Functional area	Carpet Manufacturing Operations
Job role	SSCAR01 Production Operator – Tufting
Job role description	Operates and monitors tufting machines to produce carpet by inserting yarn into a primary backing material in accordance with production specifications. In Australia's carpet manufacturing industry—where tufted carpet production dominates due to efficiency and scalability—the Production Operator – Tufting is responsible for setting up tufting machines, managing yarn creels, monitoring machine performance and ensuring consistent product quality. The role requires coordination with upstream yarn preparation and downstream backing, coating and finishing processes to maintain continuous production flow in a highly automated environment.
Performance expectations	• Producing carpet to specification • Maintaining pile height, density and pattern accuracy • Operating machinery safely • Minimising waste and defects • Monitoring performance • Maintaining production flow • Recording production data • Following WHS procedures
Specialisation	Cut pile, loop pile, multi-level loop, patterned tufting, artificial grass [synthetic turf] tufting
Application in other sectors	• Textile manufacturing • Synthetic turf production • Automotive textiles • Industrial textiles • Upholstery

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	• Machine setup • Yarn creel loading • Monitoring operation • Inspecting defects • Maintaining yarn tension • Recording output • Coordinating processes
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	• Cleaning equipment
Critical work functions	• Ensuring quality • Maintaining flow • Preventing faults • Minimising waste • Aligning yarn supply • Safe operation • Supporting downstream processes

3. Technical skills

Tufting machine operation	Operating tufting machinery to production requirements
Yarn handling	Managing yarn creels and feed systems
Machine setup	Configuring stitch rate, gauge and pile height
Process monitoring	Adjusting machine performance in real time
Quality inspection	Identifying defects and ensuring standards
Maintenance	Basic troubleshooting and upkeep
Documentation	Recording production and quality data

4. Generic Skills

Attention to detail	Ensuring product accuracy
Problem solving	Resolving machine issues
Time management	Meeting production targets
Technical aptitude	Working with automated equipment
Communication	Coordinating with team members
Teamwork	Working across shifts
Safety awareness	Applying WHS procedures

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	• Digital tufting systems • Automated monitoring • Data-driven optimisation • ERP integration • Sustainable production • Advanced yarn systems
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6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

Entry-level preparation	MSM20116 Certificate II in Process Manufacturing or equivalent
Advanced development	MSM30116 Certificate III in Process Manufacturing or equivalent

7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Production Assistant → Creel Loader → Tufting Operator → Senior Operator → Team Leader → Supervisor
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8. Classification

Australian Qualifications Framework	Level 2-3
Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Skill Levels	Skill Level 4
Open Source Classification of Occupations for Australia (OSCA)	Textile Production Worker - Tufting



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