

SSCAR16 Production Operator – Extrusion

1. Job role

TCF sub-sector	Carpet and Textile Floor Covering Manufacturing
Functional area	Artificial Grass [Synthetic Turf] Design, Manufacturing and Installation
Job role	SSCAR16 Production Operator – Extrusion
Job role description	Operates and monitors extrusion lines used to produce synthetic yarns or filaments for artificial grass applications. In the synthetic turf manufacturing sector, the Production Operator – Extrusion is responsible for converting polymer resins (e.g. polyethylene, polypropylene) into fibres through controlled heating, melting and extrusion processes. The operator manages line settings, monitors product quality and ensures continuous operation of extrusion equipment. The role is critical to ensuring fibre consistency, durability and performance characteristics required for synthetic grass products, and requires coordination with downstream tufting and finishing processes.
Performance expectations	- Producing extruded yarns that meet specification for thickness, strength and colour - Maintaining stable extrusion process conditions - Operating extrusion equipment safely and efficiently - Minimising defects such as breakage, inconsistency or contamination - Monitoring line performance and responding to issues - Maintaining continuous production flow - Recording production and quality data - Following WHS and operational procedures
Specialisation	Monofilament extrusion, fibrillated yarn production, colour masterbatch blending, multi-layer extrusion systems
Application in other sectors	- Plastics and polymer manufacturing - Textile fibre production - Packaging film extrusion - Industrial materials processing - Automotive component manufacturing

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	- Engaging with architects, designers and clients - Providing product recommendations and technical advice - Preparing specifications and documentation - Interpreting project requirements and standards - Conducting product presentations and demonstrations
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	- Supporting tender and bid processes - Maintaining client relationships and accounts - Monitoring project progress and outcomes
Critical work functions	- Ensuring correct product specification for project requirements - Aligning product capabilities with customer needs - Supporting compliance with standards and regulations - Driving product adoption and market penetration - Maintaining strong client relationships - Supporting successful project delivery - Enabling feedback loop to product development teams

3. Technical skills

Extrusion machine operation	Operating polymer extrusion equipment
Process control	Managing temperature, pressure and speed settings
Material handling	Handling polymers and additives
Quality inspection	Identifying fibre defects and inconsistencies
Machine setup	Configuring extrusion parameters
Maintenance and troubleshooting	Resolving minor equipment issues
Winding systems	Managing yarn spooling and tension
Production documentation	Recording process and output data

4. Generic Skills

Attention to detail	Ensuring product consistency
Problem solving	Responding to process issues
Time management	Maintaining production flow
Technical aptitude	Working with automated systems
Communication	Coordinating with team members
Teamwork	Working across production shifts
Safety awareness	Applying WHS in high-temperature environments

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	- Advanced polymer materials and additives - Automated extrusion monitoring systems - Data-driven process optimisation - Sustainable and recycled material use - Integration with digital production systems - Energy-efficient extrusion technologies
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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 → Extrusion Operator → Production Operator - Extrusion → Senior Operator → Team Leader → Production Supervisor
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8. Classification

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



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