

# SSGIN03 Ginning Machine Operator

## 1. Job role

|                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| TCF sub-sector                                                    | <b>Cotton Ginning</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Functional area                                                   | Production Operations                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Job role                                                          | SSGIN03 Ginning Machine Operator                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Job role description                                              | <p>Operates and monitors cotton ginning machinery to separate cotton fibres from seeds and prepare fibre for baling and further processing.</p> <p>In the Australian cotton ginning sector—characterised by high-throughput, mechanised and seasonal operations—the Ginning Machine Operator plays a core production role in maintaining continuous plant performance. The operator ensures machinery is functioning correctly, monitors fibre output quality and responds to operational issues to minimise downtime.</p> <p>The role works closely with the Head Ginner / Shift Supervisor and other operators to maintain efficient material flow, achieve production targets and ensure safe plant operation.</p> |
| Performance expectations                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operating ginning machinery efficiently and safely</li> <li>• Maintaining consistent fibre quality and separation</li> <li>• Monitoring machine performance and throughput</li> <li>• Minimising downtime and production interruptions</li> <li>• Identifying and responding to faults or blockages</li> <li>• Supporting continuous processing during peak season</li> <li>• Recording production data accurately</li> <li>• Following WHS and operational procedures</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Specialisation                                                    | Cotton gin stands, fibre separation processes, high-speed mechanical systems, continuous production operation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Application in other Textile, Clothing and Footwear (TCF) sectors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agricultural processing industries</li> <li>• Grain and seed processing</li> <li>• Manufacturing machine operation roles</li> <li>• Bulk material processing industries</li> <li>• Industrial processing plants</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

## 2. Key tasks and critical work functions

|           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Key tasks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operating cotton ginning machines and associated equipment</li> <li>• Monitoring fibre separation and machine output</li> <li>• Adjusting machine settings to optimise performance</li> <li>• Identifying and clearing blockages or faults</li> <li>• Inspecting fibre quality during processing</li> <li>• Recording production and machine data</li> </ul> |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performing basic cleaning and maintenance tasks</li> <li>Communicating issues to supervisors and maintenance teams</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Critical work functions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring efficient fibre separation and processing</li> <li>Maintaining continuous machine operation</li> <li>Preventing equipment damage and production delays</li> <li>Supporting fibre quality and yield outcomes</li> <li>Maintaining safe operation of machinery</li> <li>Contributing to overall plant productivity</li> <li>Supporting coordination with upstream and downstream processes</li> </ul> |

### 3. Technical skills

|                       |                                                    |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Machine operation     | Operating ginning equipment and systems            |
| Process monitoring    | Observing fibre separation and machine performance |
| Basic troubleshooting | Identifying and resolving minor faults             |
| Quality awareness     | Recognising fibre defects or contamination         |
| Material handling     | Managing cotton flow through machines              |
| Equipment cleaning    | Maintaining machine cleanliness                    |
| Data recording        | Logging production and performance data            |
| Safety procedures     | Applying WHS in industrial environments            |

### 4. Generic Skills

|                     |                                                |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Attention to detail | Ensuring fibre quality and machine performance |
| Problem solving     | Responding to machine or process issues        |
| Communication       | Reporting to supervisors and maintenance teams |
| Time management     | Maintaining continuous production flow         |
| Teamwork            | Working within production teams                |
| Technical aptitude  | Operating mechanised equipment                 |
| Safety awareness    | Maintaining safe work practices                |

### 5. Emerging skills

|                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Emerging skills | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integration with automated and SCADA systems</li> <li>Data-driven machine performance monitoring</li> <li>Predictive maintenance awareness</li> <li>Digital reporting tools</li> <li>Energy efficiency optimisation</li> <li>Advanced fibre processing technologies</li> </ul> |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

### 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 | Process Worker → Ginning Machine Operator → Head Ginner / Shift Supervisor → Production Manager |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## 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) | Machine Operator - Cotton Ginning |



Skills Insight is a Jobs and Skills Council funded by the Australian Government Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.