

SSGIN06 Baler / Press Operator

1. Job role

TCF sub-sector	Cotton Ginning
Functional area	Production Operations
Job role	SSGIN06 Baler / Press Operator
Job role description	Operates bale press systems to compress processed cotton lint into standardised bales for storage, transport and sale. In the Australian cotton ginning sector—characterised by high-throughput, export-oriented production—the Baler / Press Operator plays a critical role in finalising fibre output. The role ensures cotton lint is pressed to required density, correctly wrapped and labelled to meet industry and customer specifications. The operator works closely with ginning operators, quality staff and logistics teams to ensure bale consistency, traceability and efficient downstream handling.
Performance expectations	- Producing bales to required weight, density and specification - Operating press systems safely and efficiently - Ensuring correct bale identification and traceability - Maintaining consistent bale quality and presentation - Minimising fibre loss and contamination - Supporting continuous production flow - Recording bale data accurately - Following WHS and operational procedures
Specialisation	Cotton bale pressing systems, fibre compaction, bale wrapping and tagging, export preparation
Application in other Textile, Clothing and Footwear (TCF) sectors	- Agricultural product baling and packaging - Textile and fibre industries - Recycling and materials compaction - Manufacturing packaging operations - Bulk commodity handling industries

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	- Operating bale press and compaction equipment - Loading lint into press systems - Monitoring bale weight and density - Wrapping and securing bales - Labelling and tagging bales for traceability - Recording bale and production data - Moving bales to storage or dispatch areas - Cleaning and maintaining press equipment
Critical work functions	- Ensuring consistent bale quality and specifications - Maintaining accurate bale identification and traceability

	• Supporting efficient downstream logistics and export • Preventing contamination and fibre loss • Ensuring safe operation of press equipment • Maintaining production flow from processing to dispatch • Supporting compliance with customer and industry standards
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3. Technical skills

Press operation	Operating bale press machinery
Material handling	Handling processed cotton lint safely
Weighing and measurement	Ensuring correct bale weight and density
Labelling and tagging	Applying traceability systems
Quality inspection	Checking bale integrity and condition
Equipment monitoring	Observing system performance
Basic troubleshooting	Resolving minor equipment issues
Documentation	Recording bale production data

4. Generic Skills

Attention to detail	Ensuring accurate bale specifications
Problem solving	Addressing equipment or quality issues
Time management	Maintaining production flow
Communication	Coordinating with production and logistics teams
Teamwork	Working across plant operations
Physical capability	Handling materials and equipment
Safety awareness	Applying WHS in mechanical environments

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	• Automated bale handling and robotics • Digital traceability and tagging systems • Integration with logistics and ERP systems • Data-driven production monitoring • Sustainability and waste reduction practices • Advanced packaging technologies
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6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

Entry-level preparation	No skill set or qualification.
Advanced development	No skill set or qualification.

7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Process Worker → Baler / Press Operator → Senior Operator → Logistics or Production 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)	Baler / Press Operator - Cotton Ginning



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