

SSGIN07 Grablift / Moonbuggy Operator

1. Job role

TCF sub-sector	Cotton Ginning
Functional area	Production Operations
Job role	SSGIN07 Grablift / Moonbuggy Operator
Job role description	Operates grablift and moonbuggy equipment to transport and manage bulk cotton and by-products across the gin site, ensuring efficient material flow and site operations. In the Australian cotton ginning sector—characterised by large-scale, seasonal and high-throughput operations—the Grablift / Moonbuggy Operator plays a key role in managing bulk material movement within the yard and between processing stages. The role supports continuous plant operation by preventing bottlenecks and maintaining organised material handling systems. The operator works closely with materials handling operators, ginning operators and supervisors to ensure safe, efficient and coordinated site logistics.
Performance expectations	• Operating grablift and moonbuggy equipment safely and efficiently • Maintaining continuous movement of cotton and by-products • Preventing material congestion and workflow disruption • Ensuring safe site traffic and equipment operation • Minimising material loss and contamination • Supporting production throughput and efficiency • Maintaining equipment condition and reporting issues • Following WHS and operational procedures
Specialisation	Bulk cotton handling, grablift operation, moonbuggy operation, yard logistics coordination
Application in other Textile, Clothing and Footwear (TCF) sectors	• Agricultural bulk material handling • Waste and recycling operations • Construction and civil material transport • Mining and resource handling • Industrial yard logistics

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	• Operating grablift and moonbuggy vehicles • Transporting cotton, seed and waste materials • Loading and unloading bulk materials • Managing yard material flow and staging • Monitoring equipment performance • Conducting pre- and post-operation checks
-----------	--

	• Maintaining safe operating conditions • Communicating with site personnel
Critical work functions	• Maintaining continuous bulk material flow • Supporting efficient yard and plant logistics • Preventing bottlenecks and congestion • Ensuring safe equipment and vehicle operation • Maintaining material integrity and quality • Supporting production throughput targets • Coordinating with production and logistics teams

3. Technical skills

Vehicle operation	Operating grablift and moonbuggy equipment
Bulk material handling	Managing cotton and by-products
Equipment inspection	Conducting safety and operational checks
Load management	Handling and transporting bulk loads
Site logistics	Understanding yard operations and flow
Basic troubleshooting	Identifying equipment issues
Communication systems	Coordinating with teams
Safety procedures	Applying WHS for mobile plant

4. Generic Skills

Situational awareness	Maintaining safe site operations
Attention to detail	Ensuring correct material handling
Communication	Working with operators and supervisors
Time management	Maintaining efficient workflow
Teamwork	Supporting site operations
Problem solving	Responding to material flow issues
Reliability	Ensuring consistent operational support

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	• Automated and remote-controlled equipment • GPS and telematics systems • Digital yard management tools • Fuel efficiency and sustainability practices • Integration with production control systems • Data-driven logistics optimisation
-----------------	---

6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

Entry-level preparation	Plant operation training and site-based induction
-------------------------	---

Advanced development	MSM20116 Certificate II in Process Manufacturing or equivalent
----------------------	--

7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Yard Hand → Grablift / Moonbuggy Operator → Materials Handling Operator → Supervisor
--------------------------	--

8. Classification

Australian Qualifications Framework	Level 2-3
Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Skill Levels	Skill Level 4-5
Open Source Classification of Occupations for Australia (OSCA)	Mobile Plant Operator - Cotton Ginning



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