

SSGIN08 Cotton Classer

1. Job role

TCF sub-sector	Cotton Ginning
Functional area	Quality Assurance and Fibre Classification
Job role	SSGIN08 Cotton Classer
Job role description	Assesses, grades and classifies cotton fibre based on physical and quality characteristics to ensure compliance with industry standards and market requirements. In the Australian cotton ginning sector—characterised by export-focused, quality-driven production—the Cotton Classer plays a critical role in determining fibre value and usability. The role involves evaluating fibre properties such as length, strength, micronaire, colour and contamination levels. The Cotton Classer works closely with production, laboratory, and logistics teams to ensure accurate classification, traceability and alignment with customer specifications and international trading standards.
Performance expectations	• Accurately classifying cotton according to industry standards • Ensuring fibre quality meets customer and export requirements • Maintaining consistency in grading decisions • Identifying contamination, defects or variability • Supporting traceability and documentation systems • Minimising quality-related rework or rejection • Recording classification data accurately • Following WHS and quality procedures
Specialisation	Cotton fibre grading, HVI data interpretation, contamination detection, quality benchmarking, export classification standards
Application in other Textile, Clothing and Footwear (TCF) sectors	• Agricultural commodity grading • Textile fibre classification • Materials inspection and quality control • Export quality assurance industries • Laboratory and testing environments

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	• Inspecting cotton fibre samples • Classifying cotton based on grade and specifications • Interpreting HVI (High Volume Instrument) data • Identifying contamination or fibre defects • Recording classification and quality data • Liaising with production and logistics teams • Maintaining traceability systems • Monitoring consistency across batches
-----------	---

Critical work functions	• Ensuring accurate and consistent fibre classification • Maintaining fibre quality standards and integrity • Supporting downstream processing and market value • Preventing contamination and quality issues • Ensuring traceability and compliance • Supporting pricing and customer requirements • Enabling data-driven quality decisions
-------------------------	--

3. Technical skills

Cotton classing	Applying industry grading systems
Fibre assessment	Evaluating length, strength, micronaire and colour
HVI analysis	Interpreting instrument-based fibre data
Quality inspection	Identifying defects and contamination
Standards compliance	Applying Australian and international standards
Documentation	Recording classification and quality data
Sampling techniques	Selecting representative fibre samples
Traceability systems	Maintaining tracking and identification

4. Generic Skills

Attention to detail	Ensuring accuracy in classification
Analytical thinking	Interpreting fibre data and characteristics
Problem solving	Identifying quality issues
Communication	Working with production and QA teams
Time management	Maintaining workflow efficiency
Integrity	Ensuring objective classification outcomes
Teamwork	Collaborating across operational areas

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	• Advanced fibre analysis technologies • Automated grading and AI-assisted classification • Data analytics for fibre quality trends • Digital traceability systems and blockchain • Sustainability and provenance verification • Integration with global cotton trading platforms
-----------------	--

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	Cotton Classer → Senior Classer → Quality Manager → Technical or Operations Manager
--------------------------	---

8. Classification

Australian Qualifications Framework	Level 3-5
Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Skill Levels	Skill Level 3
Open Source Classification of Occupations for Australia (OSCA)	Cotton Classer / Fibre Quality Specialist



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