

SSDCL12 Boiler Operator

1. Job role

TCF sub-sector	Dry Cleaning and Laundry Services
Functional area	Engineering and Maintenance
Job role	SSDCL12 Boiler Operator
Job role description	Operates, monitors and maintains boiler and steam generation systems used in dry cleaning and laundry operations to support cleaning, pressing and finishing processes. In the Australian dry cleaning industry—where operations must comply with workplace health, safety and environmental requirements—the Boiler Operator ensures safe and efficient steam production, maintains pressure systems and supports continuous production by ensuring reliable plant performance.
Performance expectations	• Operating boiler systems to generate consistent steam supply for production processes • Monitoring pressure, temperature and water levels to maintain safe operating conditions • Performing routine inspections and basic maintenance of boiler and steam systems • Identifying and responding to faults or irregularities in system performance • Ensuring compliance with workplace health, safety and pressure vessel regulations • Maintaining water treatment processes to prevent scaling and corrosion • Recording operational data and maintenance activities accurately • Supporting production efficiency by ensuring reliable steam supply • Maintaining cleanliness and safety of plant areas • Contributing to continuous improvement in energy efficiency and system performance
Specialisation	Boiler systems, steam distribution systems, water treatment systems, pressure vessel operations, energy efficiency systems, plant maintenance
Application in other Textile, Clothing and Footwear (TCF) sectors	• Commercial laundry and linen services supporting steam generation for washing, drying and finishing systems • Textile manufacturing and finishing supporting steam processes in dyeing, finishing and treatment operations • Apparel production and garment finishing supporting steam-based pressing and shaping systems • Technical textile and specialty services supporting controlled steam applications in specialised processes

	• Textile restoration services supporting steam cleaning and treatment processes • Leather and suede processing supporting steam-based treatment and finishing operations • Manufacturing and processing industries supporting boiler and steam systems across production environments
--	--

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	• Starting up and shutting down boiler systems in accordance with procedures • Monitoring pressure gauges, temperature controls and water levels • Adjusting system settings to maintain optimal steam production • Conducting routine inspections and safety checks • Performing basic maintenance and cleaning of boiler systems • Managing water treatment and chemical dosing systems • Recording operational data and maintenance logs • Following workplace health, safety and pressure vessel procedures
Critical work functions	• Maintaining safe operation of boiler and pressure systems • Ensuring consistent and reliable steam supply for production • Preventing system failures through monitoring and maintenance • Managing risks associated with high-pressure systems • Ensuring compliance with safety and regulatory requirements • Coordinating with maintenance and production teams

3. Technical skills

Boiler operation	Operating steam boilers and pressure systems safely and efficiently
Steam systems	Managing steam generation and distribution across plant operations
Water treatment	Managing chemical dosing and water quality control systems
Pressure monitoring	Monitoring gauges and control systems for safe operation
Maintenance procedures	Performing routine inspection and basic maintenance tasks
Safety systems	Operating safety valves and shutdown systems
Energy management	Optimising fuel and energy use in boiler operations

4. Generic Skills

Attention to detail	Monitoring systems accurately to maintain safe operation
Problem solving	Identifying and resolving system faults and irregularities
Communication	Communicating with maintenance and production teams
Teamwork	Working collaboratively within plant and operations teams

Time management	Managing operational tasks and monitoring schedules
Safety awareness	Applying safe practices in high-pressure environments
Adaptability	Responding to changing operational and system requirements

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	• Adopting energy-efficient and low-emission boiler technologies • Using automated monitoring and control systems • Applying predictive maintenance and condition monitoring tools • Implementing water-saving and recycling systems • Integrating digital plant management systems • Supporting environmentally sustainable steam generation practices
-----------------	--

6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

Entry-level preparation	MSMBLIC001 Licence to operate a standard boiler
Advanced development	MSMBLIC002 Licence to operate an advanced boiler

7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Boiler Operator → Senior Boiler Operator → Maintenance Supervisor → Plant Manager → Operations Manager
--------------------------	--

8. Classification

Australian Qualifications Framework	AQF Level 2-3
Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Skill Levels	Skill Level 3
Open Source Classification of Occupations for Australia (OSCA)	Boiler Operator / Plant Operator / Engineering Technician



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