

SSFOT07 Footwear Machine Operator (Cutting)

1. Job role

TCF sub-sector	Footwear Production
Functional area	Industrial [machine based] production
Job role	SSFOT07 Footwear Machine Operator (Cutting)
Job role description	Operates cutting machinery to accurately cut leather, synthetic and textile materials into footwear upper and component parts according to approved patterns and production specifications. Ensures material efficiency, quality standards and safe machine operation.
Performance expectations	• Achieve daily cutting output targets • Maintain high accuracy in component cutting • Minimise material waste and offcuts • Ensure safe operation of cutting machinery • Meet quality inspection standards • Maintain accurate production records
Specialisation	• Clicker press operation • Automated CNC cutting systems • Leather grading and material optimisation
Application in other Textile, Clothing and Footwear (TCF) sectors	Transferable to cutting operations in leather goods, apparel and textile manufacturing sectors.

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	• Set up and operate cutting machinery • Select appropriate dies and digital cutting files • Position materials to optimise yield • Inspect cut components for defects • Maintain equipment cleanliness and safety standards • Record production quantities and material usage • Report equipment faults or material issues
Critical work functions	• Maintaining precision and dimensional accuracy • Maximising material utilisation and reducing waste • Ensuring consistent component quality • Operating machinery safely and efficiently • Supporting workflow continuity in production • Identifying defective materials early in process • Maintaining accurate documentation

3. Technical skills

Cutting machinery operation	Operate clicker presses and automated cutting systems.
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Material identification	Recognise grades and characteristics of leather and synthetic materials.
Pattern and die alignment	Align patterns accurately to material grain and stretch.
Digital cutting systems*	Operate CNC or automated cutting software.
Quality inspection procedures	Inspect components for accuracy and defects.
Basic machine maintenance	Perform routine checks and report mechanical faults.
Material optimisation techniques*	Apply nesting and yield improvement methods.
WHS compliance	Follow safety procedures for machine operation.

*Technical skills identified as emerging skills in TCF industry.

4. Generic Skills

Generic Skill	Brief description
Attention to detail	Ensure precise cutting and component accuracy.
Time management	Meet production throughput targets.
Problem solving	Identify material or equipment issues.
Communication	Report production and quality issues clearly.
Teamwork	Coordinate with closing and assembly departments.
Reliability	Maintain consistent attendance and performance.

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	- Advanced CNC and automated cutting systems - Digital nesting optimisation software - Integration with ERP production tracking systems - Sustainable material waste reduction practices - Data-driven yield performance monitoring - Automation-aware workflow integration
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6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

Entry-level preparation	MST20722 Certificate II in Apparel, Fashion and Textiles or equivalent
Advanced development	No qualification.

7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Possible job progression: Machine Operator → Senior Machine Operator → Production Technician → Production Supervisor
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8. Classification

Australian Qualifications Framework	AQF Level 2-3
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Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Skill Levels	Skill Level 4-5 (Machine Operators)
Open Source Classification of Occupations for Australia (OSCA)	Footwear Machine Operator - Cutting



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