

# SSFOT08 Footwear Machine Operator (Finishing)

## 1. Job role

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| TCF sub-sector                                                    | Footwear Production - Australia                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Functional area                                                   | Industrial [machine based] production                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Job role                                                          | SSFOT08 Footwear Machine Operator (Finishing)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Job role description                                              | Operates finishing machinery and performs manual finishing tasks to prepare completed footwear for final inspection and dispatch. Responsible for trimming, cleaning, polishing, edge finishing, final quality presentation and packaging preparation in accordance with specifications.                                                                                       |
| Performance expectations                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achieve daily finishing output targets</li> <li>• Maintain high presentation and quality standards</li> <li>• Ensure consistency of colour and surface finish</li> <li>• Minimise rework and cosmetic defects</li> <li>• Operate finishing equipment safely</li> <li>• Prepare footwear for final inspection and packaging</li> </ul> |
| Specialisation                                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Edge trimming and polishing</li> <li>• Surface treatment and conditioning</li> <li>• Final inspection and presentation preparation</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Application in other Textile, Clothing and Footwear (TCF) sectors | Transferable to finishing and presentation roles in leather goods, apparel and accessory manufacturing sectors.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

## 2. Key tasks and critical work functions

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| Key tasks               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operate trimming and finishing machinery</li> <li>• Remove excess materials and clean surfaces</li> <li>• Apply polishes, dyes or surface treatments</li> <li>• Inspect finished footwear for cosmetic defects</li> <li>• Prepare footwear for final quality inspection</li> <li>• Pack footwear in accordance with brand standards</li> <li>• Record output and report defects</li> </ul>       |
| Critical work functions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintaining high cosmetic and presentation standards</li> <li>• Ensuring product consistency and brand quality</li> <li>• Identifying and rectifying minor defects</li> <li>• Supporting efficient final production flow</li> <li>• Reducing rework and waste</li> <li>• Adhering to safety procedures for chemicals and equipment</li> <li>• Maintaining accurate production records</li> </ul> |

## 3. Technical skills

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|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Finishing machinery operation | Operate trimming, buffing and polishing equipment. |
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| Surface treatment techniques  | Apply conditioners, dyes and protective coatings.               |
| Edge finishing methods        | Trim and smooth edges to specification.                         |
| Visual quality inspection     | Identify cosmetic defects and inconsistencies.                  |
| Packaging standards           | Prepare footwear according to brand and retailer requirements.  |
| Chemical handling awareness*  | Handle finishing products safely and responsibly.               |
| Digital production reporting* | Record output in ERP or production systems.                     |
| WHS compliance                | Follow safety procedures for machinery and finishing chemicals. |

\*Technical skills identified as emerging skills in TCF industry.

#### 4. Generic Skills

| Generic Skill       | Brief description                               |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Attention to detail | Ensure consistent presentation quality.         |
| Time management     | Meet finishing throughput targets.              |
| Problem solving     | Identify minor defects and corrective actions.  |
| Communication       | Report finishing or quality issues.             |
| Teamwork            | Coordinate with assembly and quality teams.     |
| Reliability         | Maintain consistent attendance and performance. |

#### 5. Emerging skills

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| Emerging skills | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Automation-integrated finishing systems</li> <li>Sustainable surface treatment technologies</li> <li>Low-impact chemical application processes</li> <li>Digital quality tracking systems</li> <li>Data-driven defect analysis</li> <li>Advanced product presentation standards</li> </ul> |
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#### 6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

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

#### 7. Job progression

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| Possible job progression | Possible job progression: Finishing Operator → Senior Production Technician → Production Supervisor |
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#### 8. Classification

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| Australian Qualifications Framework                | AQF Level 2-3                       |
| Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Skill Levels | Skill Level 4-5 (Machine Operators) |

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| Open Source Classification of Occupations for Australia (OSCA) | Footwear Machine Operator - Finishing |
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