

SSFOT09 Footwear Machine Operator (General)

1. Job role

TCF sub-sector	Footwear Production
Functional area	Industrial [machine based] production
Job role	SSFOT09 Footwear Machine Operator (General)
Job role description	Operates a range of footwear production machinery across cutting, closing, lasting, assembly and finishing stages. Responsible for maintaining quality standards, meeting production targets and supporting workflow continuity across multiple manufacturing processes.
Performance expectations	• Achieve daily production targets across multiple processes • Maintain consistent quality standards • Operate machinery safely and efficiently • Adapt to different production stages as required • Minimise material waste and rework • Maintain accurate production documentation
Specialisation	• Multi-machine operation across production stages • Flexible workforce deployment • Cross-functional production support
Application in other Textile, Clothing and Footwear (TCF) sectors	Transferable to multi-skilled production roles in leather goods, apparel and related manufacturing sectors.

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	• Operate cutting, closing, lasting and finishing machinery • Adjust machine settings for different materials and styles • Inspect components and finished products for defects • Maintain workflow across production stages • Record output and production data • Report equipment or material faults • Maintain clean and safe workstation
Critical work functions	• Maintaining flexibility across production stages • Ensuring consistent product quality • Supporting efficient workflow transitions • Minimising downtime and production delays • Applying safe operating procedures • Identifying defects early in production process • Supporting productivity and waste reduction goals

3. Technical skills

Cutting machine operation	Operate clicker and automated cutting systems.
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Closing machinery operation	Operate industrial sewing and assembly machines.
Lasting and assembly processes	Operate lasting and sole attachment equipment.
Finishing techniques	Perform trimming, polishing and presentation tasks.
Material handling	Handle leather, synthetics and textiles appropriately.
Basic machine maintenance	Perform routine checks and adjustments.
Digital production tracking*	Record output using ERP or tracking systems.
WHS compliance	Follow safety procedures across all machinery types.

*Technical skills identified as emerging skills in TCF industry.

4. Generic Skills

Generic Skill	Brief description
Adaptability	Transition between production stages as required.
Attention to detail	Maintain quality across multiple processes.
Time management	Meet output targets across functions.
Problem solving	Identify and resolve machine or material issues.
Communication	Report production and quality issues clearly.
Teamwork	Coordinate with supervisors and production teams.

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	- Automation-integrated production systems - Digital workflow monitoring platforms - Cross-functional production analytics - Sustainable material usage practices - Data-driven productivity optimisation - Robotics-assisted manufacturing awareness
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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 Production Technician → Production Supervisor
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8. Classification

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

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