

SSFOT16 Repair and Modification Specialist

1. Job role

TCF sub-sector	Footwear Production
Functional area	Craft [artisanal] production
Job role	SSFOT16 Repair and Modification Specialist
Job role description	A trade-qualified craftsperson, typically apprenticeship-trained, who undertakes specialist footwear repair, structural modification and restoration. Works across bespoke and artisanal production environments, restoring, altering or enhancing footwear to extend product life, improve fit and maintain heritage craftsmanship standards.
Performance expectations	• Restore footwear to high structural and aesthetic standards • Diagnose wear patterns and structural faults accurately • Perform modifications to improve fit and performance • Maintain traditional craftsmanship standards • Deliver work within agreed timelines • Preserve brand and heritage integrity
Specialisation	• Resoling and heel replacement • Structural reconstruction and welt repair • Custom fit modification and adjustment • Pedorthic, orthotic and podiatrist footwear
Application in other Textile, Clothing and Footwear (TCF) sectors	Transferable to leather goods repair, saddlery restoration and heritage product conservation sectors.

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	• Assess condition of footwear and diagnose faults • Remove and replace soles, heels and structural components • Repair stitching, welts and uppers • Modify footwear for improved fit or orthotic requirements • Restore finish, polish and presentation quality • Source and match materials for heritage restoration • Maintain repair documentation and client communication
Critical work functions	• Maintaining structural integrity and durability • Ensuring accurate fit modification • Preserving original design characteristics • Selecting appropriate repair materials and methods • Maintaining safety in use of tools and adhesives • Delivering high-quality aesthetic outcomes • Supporting sustainability through product life extension

3. Technical skills

Resoling techniques	Advanced knowledge of upper assembly, sole attachment and finishing processes.
Heel reconstruction	Create comprehensive and production-ready design packs.
Upper repair methods	Develop and manage detailed BOM documentation.
Fit modification techniques	Translate product design into structured workflow processes.
Material matching	Understand relevant Australian safety and product standards.
Hand finishing skills	Manage digital technical documentation systems.
Tool maintenance	Ensure specifications align with inspection criteria.
WHS compliance	Develop technical solutions within cost parameters.

4. Generic Skills

Generic Skill	Brief description
Problem solving	Diagnose complex structural and wear issues.
Attention to detail	Maintain precision in repair and restoration.
Communication	Consult with clients regarding repair scope and expectations.
Time management	Manage multiple repair jobs efficiently.
Craftsmanship	Maintain high-quality trade standards.
Initiative	Recommend improvements or preventative modifications.

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	- Sustainable repair and circular economy practices - Integration of digital fit scanning for modifications - Advanced heritage restoration techniques - Eco-friendly adhesives and materials - Digital repair documentation systems - Custom orthotic integration techniques
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6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

Entry-level preparation	MST20722 Certificate II in Apparel, Fashion and Textiles
Advanced development	MST40316 Certificate IV in Custom-Made Footwear

7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Possible job progression: Apprentice Shoe and Boot Maker → Qualified Repair Specialist → Master Shoemaker → Workshop Owner
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8. Classification

Australian Qualifications Framework	AQF Level 3-4
Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Skill Levels	Skill Level 3 (Tradesperson)
Open Source Classification of Occupations for Australia (OSCA)	Footwear Repair and Modification Specialist



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