

SSLPR7 Leather Technician

1. Job role

TCF sub-sector	Leather Production
Functional area	Leather Production
Job role	SSLPR7 Leather Technician
Job role description	Provides technical support to production and quality functions across beamhouse, tanning, retanning and finishing operations. Conducts routine laboratory testing, monitors process parameters, assists with formulation preparation and supports defect investigation. Works under the guidance of a Leather Technologist or Production Manager and applies established procedures and specifications.
Performance expectations	• Conduct routine physical and chemical testing of leather samples • Monitor pH, temperature and process indicators during production • Prepare chemical formulations according to approved specifications • Record and maintain accurate laboratory and production data • Identify and report quality deviations or process irregularities • Support production trials and continuous improvement activities • Ensure compliance with internal quality procedures and safety standards
Specialisation	May specialise in wet-end testing, finishing quality control, laboratory sample preparation, in-process inspection or compliance documentation support.
Application in other Textile, Clothing and Footwear (TCF) sectors	Transferable to laboratory technician or quality control roles in textile dyeing and finishing plants, footwear material testing environments, leather goods quality assurance and other materials testing laboratories.

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	• Collect and prepare leather samples for laboratory testing • Perform shrinkage temperature, thickness, tensile and pH tests • Assist in preparing and measuring chemical formulations • Monitor in-process production data and record results • Inspect leather for surface and structural defects • Maintain laboratory equipment and calibration records • tests • Compile test results for review by Leather Technologist • Support investigation of non-conformances
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Critical work functions	• Accurate measurement and documentation of quality parameters • Early detection of production deviations • Reliable preparation of chemicals according to specification • Maintenance of laboratory integrity and testing accuracy • Support of process stability and consistent product performance
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3. Technical skills

Leather testing procedures	Apply standard laboratory methods to test physical and chemical properties.
Chemical handling	Measure and prepare tanning and finishing chemicals safely and accurately.
Process monitoring	Record and interpret routine production data such as pH and temperature.
Quality inspection	Identify visible and measurable leather defects.
Data recording	Maintain accurate digital and manual laboratory records.
Equipment maintenance	Clean, calibrate and maintain laboratory testing equipment.
Specification compliance	Follow approved formulations and technical instructions.

4. Generic Skills

Attention to detail	Ensure accuracy in measurement and documentation.
Analytical thinking	Interpret routine test results and identify deviations.
Communication	Report findings clearly to supervisors and technologists.
Teamwork	Work collaboratively with production and QA teams.
Time management	Prioritise testing tasks to meet production timelines.
Safety awareness	Follow chemical handling and laboratory safety protocols.

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	• Use of digital laboratory information management systems (LIMS) • Integration of test data with ERP and production dashboards • Use of automated testing equipment and digital measurement tools • Support for sustainable chemistry trials and data collection • Basic data analysis using production analytics software • Familiarity with export and compliance documentation systems
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6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

Entry-level preparation	MSL40122 Certificate IV in Laboratory Techniques or equivalent qualification.
Advanced development	MSL60109 Advanced Diploma of Laboratory Operations or equivalent or higher education bachelor's degree in Chemistry

	and further study in in Leather Manufacturing or Applied Chemistry
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7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Leather Technician → Leather Technologist → Senior Technologist / Technical Manager → Production Planner → Production Manager
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8. Classification

Australian Qualifications Framework	AQF Level 4-6
Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Skill Levels	Skill Level 2
Open Source Classification of Occupations for Australia (OSCA)	Laboratory Technician / Quality Control Technician - Manufacturing context.



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