

SSTRR01 Textile Sorter / Grader

1. Job role

TCF sub-sector	Textile Recycling and Remanufacturing
Functional area	Textile Waste Sorting
Job role	SSTRR01 Textile Sorter / Grader
Job role description	Performs sorting, grading and classification of post-consumer and post-industrial textile materials to enable recycling, reuse and remanufacturing processes. In the Australian textile recycling and remanufacturing sector, this role is a core operational function responsible for assessing incoming textile waste streams and categorising materials based on fibre type, fabric composition, condition, colour and end-use potential. The Textile Sorter / Grader plays a critical role in maximising material recovery value and ensuring appropriate downstream processing pathways. The role involves manual and semi-automated sorting processes, identification of textile types, removal of contaminants and separation of materials for reuse, recycling or disposal. The operator must understand fibre characteristics, garment construction and material performance to make accurate grading decisions. The position works within a multi-skilled recycling workforce structure and collaborates with processing operators, quality personnel and logistics teams to ensure efficient material flow and high-quality output streams for remanufacturing or resale.
Performance expectations	• Accurately sorting and grading textile materials • Identifying fibre types, blends and fabric constructions • Maximising recovery and reuse value of materials • Minimising contamination and sorting errors • Maintaining consistent grading standards • Supporting efficient processing workflows • Maintaining traceability and documentation where required • Following WHS and environmental procedures • Supporting sustainability and circular economy outcomes
Specialisation	NA
Application in other TCF sectors	Waste management, recycling industries, second-hand retail, industrial material recovery, circular economy operations Fibre identification, textile grading, material classification, reuse and recycling pathways, reuse and resale assessor, de-branding and Disassembly operator, secure uniform destruction operator.

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	• Sorting incoming textile materials by type, condition and composition • Identifying natural and synthetic fibres and blends • Grading materials based on reuse, recycling or disposal criteria • Removing contaminants such as non-textile components • Separating materials into designated processing streams • Maintaining sorting accuracy and consistency • Recording sorting and grading outputs where required • Supporting material handling and workflow processes • Following safety and environmental procedures
Critical work functions	• Ensuring accurate classification of textile materials • Maximising recovery and reuse of materials • Preventing contamination of recycling streams • Supporting efficient downstream processing operations • Maintaining consistency in grading standards • Supporting environmental sustainability outcomes • Ensuring safe handling of materials • Contributing to circular economy processes

3. Technical skills

Fibre identification	Recognising natural and synthetic fibres
Material classification	Sorting by composition, condition and use
Textile knowledge	Understanding fabric types and constructions
Contamination control	Removing non-textile materials
Manual handling	Managing materials safely and efficiently
Process awareness	Understanding recycling and remanufacturing pathways
Documentation	Recording sorting outputs where required
Safety practices	Applying WHS and environmental procedures

4. Generic Skills

Attention to detail	Ensuring accurate sorting and grading
Observation skills	Identifying materials and defects
Communication	Working with team members
Problem solving	Resolving sorting challenges
Teamwork	Supporting processing operations
Time management	Maintaining workflow efficiency
Adaptability	Handling varied material streams

Reliability	Maintaining consistent performance
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5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	- Automated textile sorting technologies - Fibre recognition using digital systems - Circular economy and sustainability practices - Advanced recycling processes - Data tracking and material traceability systems - Sustainable material recovery techniques
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6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

Entry-level preparation	No skill set or qualification
Advanced development	No skill set qualification

7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Sorting Assistant → Textile Sorter / Grader → Senior Sorter → Processing Operator → Supervisor
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8. Classification

Australian Qualifications Framework	Level 2-3
Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Skill Levels	Skill Level 4
Open Source Classification of Occupations for Australia (OSCA)	Textile Sorter / Grader - Recycling and Remanufacturing



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