

# SSWOL01 Scour Plant Operator

## 1. Job role

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| TCF sub-sector                   | Wool Scouring                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Functional area                  | Production Operations                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Job role                         | SSWOL01 Scour Plant Operator                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Job role description             | <p>Operates and monitors wool scouring plant systems to remove grease, dirt and contaminants from raw wool, producing clean fibre suitable for downstream processing.</p> <p>In the Australian wool scouring sector—characterised by high mechanisation and continuous processing—the Scour Plant Operator oversees the end-to-end scouring line, including feeding, washing, rinsing, drying and material handling stages. The role requires managing process parameters such as temperature, chemical dosing, water flow and line speed to ensure consistent fibre quality.</p> <p>The operator typically works in a single-operator or small team environment and coordinates closely with maintenance, quality and logistics functions to maintain continuous production flow and compliance with environmental requirements.</p> |
| Performance expectations         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Producing scoured wool that meets quality and cleanliness specifications</li> <li>Maintaining stable process conditions across washing and drying stages</li> <li>Operating plant safely and efficiently</li> <li>Minimising fibre loss, contamination and waste</li> <li>Monitoring plant performance and responding to process variations</li> <li>Maintaining continuous production flow</li> <li>Recording production and process data accurately</li> <li>Following WHS, environmental and operational procedures</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Specialisation                   | Continuous scouring lines, multi-stage washing systems, drying systems, grease recovery processes, automated plant control systems                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Application in other TCF sectors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Textile fibre processing</li> <li>Food and agricultural processing industries</li> <li>Chemical and water treatment operations</li> <li>Industrial washing and separation processes</li> <li>Recycling and materials recovery operations</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

## 2. Key tasks and critical work functions

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| Key tasks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feeding raw wool into the scouring line</li> <li>Monitoring washing, rinsing and drying stages</li> <li>Adjusting temperature, chemical dosing and flow rates</li> </ul> |
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|                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inspecting wool quality throughout processing</li> <li>Removing contaminants and managing waste streams</li> <li>Recording production and process data</li> <li>Coordinating with maintenance and support teams</li> <li>Cleaning and maintaining plant equipment</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                |
| Critical work functions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring effective removal of contaminants from wool</li> <li>Maintaining consistent fibre quality and yield</li> <li>Preventing process instability and equipment issues</li> <li>Supporting efficient water and chemical usage</li> <li>Maintaining environmental compliance (effluent control)</li> <li>Ensuring safe operation of plant and equipment</li> <li>Supporting downstream processing requirements</li> </ul> |

### 3. Technical skills

|                          |                                                       |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Scouring plant operation | Operating multi-stage wool washing and drying systems |
| Process control          | Managing temperature, flow rates and chemical dosing  |
| Material handling        | Feeding and managing wool through the plant           |
| Quality monitoring       | Assessing fibre cleanliness and condition             |
| Equipment monitoring     | Observing plant performance and identifying issues    |
| Basic troubleshooting    | Responding to process and mechanical faults           |
| Environmental management | Managing effluent and waste streams                   |
| Production documentation | Recording process and output data                     |

### 4. Generic Skills

|                     |                                                  |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Attention to detail | Ensuring consistent fibre quality                |
| Problem solving     | Responding to process issues                     |
| Time management     | Maintaining continuous production flow           |
| Technical aptitude  | Working with automated plant systems             |
| Communication       | Coordinating with maintenance and logistics      |
| Teamwork            | Working in small or single-operator environments |
| Safety awareness    | Applying WHS and environmental procedures        |

### 5. Emerging skills

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| Emerging skills | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Automated process control and SCADA systems</li> <li>Water and chemical efficiency optimisation</li> <li>Environmental compliance and sustainability practices</li> <li>Data-driven process monitoring and analytics</li> <li>Integration with digital production systems</li> <li>Advanced fibre processing technologies</li> </ul> |
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## 6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

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|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Entry-level preparation | MSM20116 Certificate II in Process Manufacturing  |
| Advanced development    | MSM30116 Certificate III in Process Manufacturing |

## 7. Job progression

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| Possible job progression | Process Worker → Scour Plant Operator → Senior Operator → Production Supervisor → Plant Manager |
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## 8. Classification

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|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Australian Qualifications Framework                            | Level 2-3                                         |
| Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Skill Levels             | Skill Level 3                                     |
| Open Source Classification of Occupations for Australia (OSCA) | Textile or Process Plant Operator - Wool Scouring |



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