

SSALT07 Footwear Machinery Technician

Disclaimer

These Occupational Frameworks and Skill Profiles have been developed as workforce planning, occupational mapping and skills reference resources for the Australian textile, clothing and footwear (TCF) industry. They are intended to describe the typical functions, responsibilities, skills and capabilities associated with occupations across the industry.

These documents are not intended to replace or override industrial instruments or employment arrangements, including awards, enterprise agreements, employment contracts, position descriptions, classification structures, licensing or regulatory requirements, or other statutory obligations. Where differences arise, the relevant industrial, legislative or regulatory requirements take precedence. The Skill Profiles should be used as complementary reference documents to support workforce planning, career development, training and skills recognition.

1. Job role

TCF sub-sector	Clothing and Footwear Repairs and Alterations
Functional area	Equipment and Systems Support
Job role	SSALT07 Footwear Machinery Technician
Job role description	Maintains, services and repairs specialist footwear repair machinery including sole presses, heel attaching machines, grinders, sanders, finishers, stretching equipment and key cutting machines. Ensures safe, reliable and high-quality operation of equipment within footwear repair workshops.
Performance expectations	• Maintain operational reliability of footwear repair machinery. • Minimise equipment downtime and disruption to workflow. • Ensure machinery complies with safety standards. • Support consistent repair quality outcomes. • Maintain accurate maintenance documentation. • Respond promptly to mechanical faults and breakdowns.
Specialisation	• Sole and heel pressing machinery. • Grinding and finishing equipment. • Stretching and reshaping equipment. • Key cutting and ancillary machinery. • Preventative maintenance systems.
Application in other TCF sectors	Transferable to footwear production, leather goods manufacturing and small-scale manufacturing equipment maintenance roles.

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	• Conduct preventative maintenance on footwear machinery. • Diagnose mechanical and electrical faults. • Replace worn components and consumables. • Adjust pressure, alignment and calibration settings. • Test equipment for safe and accurate operation. • Maintain spare parts inventory.
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	• Provide operational guidance to repair staff.
Critical work functions	• Maintaining consistent repair quality. • Ensuring safe machine operation. • Minimising operational downtime. • Managing equipment lifecycle and servicing schedules. • Ensuring compliance with electrical and WHS standards. • Supporting workshop productivity. • Maintaining accurate maintenance records.

3. Technical skills

Mechanical fault diagnosis	Identifying faults in presses, grinders and stretching machines.
Electrical systems knowledge*	Understanding motors, switches and safety controls.
Hydraulic and pneumatic systems	Maintaining pressure-based machinery systems.
Machine calibration	Adjusting pressure and alignment settings.
Preventative maintenance planning	Scheduling regular servicing.
Safety compliance knowledge	Ensuring machinery meets WHS requirements.

*Technical skills identified as emerging skills in TCF industry.

4. Generic Skills

Problem solving	Diagnose and resolve technical faults efficiently.
Attention to detail	Ensure precise machine adjustments.
Time management	Prioritise urgent repairs.
Communication	Explain equipment issues clearly to staff.
Organisation	Maintain structured maintenance systems.
Safety awareness	Promote safe machinery use.

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	• Computer-controlled repair equipment diagnostics. • Digital maintenance tracking platforms. • Energy-efficient machinery optimisation. • Integration of automated finishing technologies.
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6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

Entry-level preparation	MEM31822 Certificate III in Engineering - Textile Mechanic.
Advanced development	MEM40119 Certificate IV in Engineering or equivalent.

7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Footwear Machinery Technician → Senior Technician → Maintenance Supervisor.
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8. Classification

Australian Qualifications Framework	AQF Level 3-4.
Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Skill Levels	Skill Level 3.
Open Source Classification of Occupations for Australia (OSCA)	332299 Metal Fitters and Machinists nec.



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