

SSCAR01 Production Operator – Tufting

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	Carpet and Textile Floor Covering Manufacturing
Functional area	Carpet Manufacturing Operations
Job role	SSCAR01 Production Operator – Tufting
Job role description	Operates and monitors tufting machines to produce carpet by inserting yarn into a primary backing material in accordance with production specifications. In Australia's carpet manufacturing industry—where tufted carpet production dominates due to efficiency and scalability—the Production Operator – Tufting is responsible for setting up tufting machines, managing yarn creels, monitoring machine performance and ensuring consistent product quality. The role requires coordination with upstream yarn preparation and downstream backing, coating and finishing processes to maintain continuous production flow in a highly automated environment.
Performance expectations	- Producing carpet to specification. - Maintaining pile height, density and pattern accuracy. - Operating machinery safely. - Minimising waste and defects. - Monitoring performance. - Maintaining production flow. - Recording production data. - Following WHS procedures.
Specialisation	Cut pile, loop pile, multi-level loop, patterned tufting, artificial grass [synthetic turf] tufting.
Application in other sectors	- Textile manufacturing. - Synthetic turf production. - Automotive textiles. - Industrial textiles. - Upholstery.

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	• Machine setup. • Yarn creel loading. • Monitoring operation. • Inspecting defects. • Maintaining yarn tension. • Recording output. • Coordinating processes. • Cleaning equipment.
Critical work functions	• Ensuring quality. • Maintaining flow. • Preventing faults. • Minimising waste. • Aligning yarn supply. • Safe operation. • Supporting downstream processes.

3. Technical skills

Tufting machine operation	Operating tufting machinery to production requirements.
Yarn handling	Managing yarn creels and feed systems.
Machine setup	Configuring stitch rate, gauge and pile height.
Process monitoring	Adjusting machine performance in real time.
Quality inspection	Identifying defects and ensuring standards.
Maintenance	Basic troubleshooting and upkeep.
Documentation	Recording production and quality data.

4. Generic Skills

Attention to detail	Ensuring product accuracy.
Problem solving	Resolving machine issues.
Time management	Meeting production targets.
Technical aptitude	Working with automated equipment.
Communication	Coordinating with team members.
Teamwork	Working across shifts.
Safety awareness	Applying WHS procedures.

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	• Digital tufting systems. • Automated monitoring. • Data-driven optimisation. • Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) integration. • Sustainable production.
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	Advanced yarn systems.
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6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

Entry-level preparation	MSM20116 Certificate II in Process Manufacturing or equivalent.
Advanced development	MSM30116 Certificate III in Process Manufacturing or equivalent.

7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Production Assistant → Creel Loader → Tufting Operator → Senior Operator → Team Leader → 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)	731432 Textile or Footwear Production Machine Operator



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