

SSCAR02 Production Operator – Backing / Coating Line

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	SSCAR02 Production Operator – Backing / Coating Line
Job role description	Operates and monitors backing and coating lines that apply secondary backing materials and coatings (e.g. latex or polymer compounds) to tufted carpet to stabilise the structure and achieve required performance characteristics. In Australia's carpet manufacturing industry, this role is critical in converting tufted carpet into finished product by ensuring adhesion, dimensional stability, durability and finish quality. The operator manages coating application, curing processes and line speeds while maintaining consistent product quality. The role requires coordination with upstream tufting operations and downstream finishing processes, working within highly automated, continuous production environments where precision, timing and process control are essential.
Performance expectations	- Producing coated carpet that meets specification and performance standards. - Maintaining consistent coating weight, adhesion and coverage. - Operating coating and curing equipment safely and efficiently. - Minimising defects such as delamination, uneven coating or curing faults. - Monitoring line performance and responding to process variations. - Maintaining continuous production flow and throughput. - Recording production and quality data accurately. - Following WHS, environmental and process control procedures.

Specialisation	Latex backing, polyurethane coating, multi-layer backing systems, carpet tile backing, high-speed continuous coating lines, and artificial grass [synthetic turf].
Application in other sectors	• Synthetic turf production (coating and backing processes). • Textile finishing and coating operations. • Industrial textiles with coated substrates. • Automotive flooring and interior materials. • Composite material production.

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	• Setting up backing and coating line parameters. • Preparing and mixing coating compounds. • Feeding tufted carpet into coating line. • Monitoring coating application and curing processes. • Adjusting line speed, temperature and application rates. • Inspecting coated carpet for defects. • Recording process and production data. • Cleaning and maintaining coating equipment.
Critical work functions	• Ensuring consistent coating application and adhesion. • Maintaining curing conditions for product stability. • Preventing defects such as delamination or uneven backing. • Maintaining synchronisation between line components. • Supporting efficient material usage and waste reduction. • Ensuring safe handling of chemicals and equipment. • Delivering consistent output for downstream finishing.

3. Technical skills

Coating line operation	Operating backing and coating machinery to production specifications.
Material handling and preparation	Preparing and handling latex, polymers and backing materials.
Process control	Monitoring and adjusting coating weight, temperature and curing conditions.
Machine setup and adjustment	Configuring line speed, rollers, applicators and ovens.
Quality inspection	Identifying coating defects and ensuring compliance with standards.
Chemical handling	Safely handling and managing coating compounds.
Maintenance and troubleshooting	Performing routine checks and resolving minor faults.
Production documentation	Recording process parameters and production outcomes.

4. Generic Skills

Attention to detail	Ensuring uniform coating and defect detection.
Problem solving	Responding to process and equipment issues.
Time management	Maintaining continuous production flow.
Technical aptitude	Working with automated coating systems.

Communication	Coordinating with upstream and downstream operators.
Teamwork	Working effectively in production teams.
Safety awareness	Applying WHS and chemical safety procedures.

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	• Advanced automated coating systems and sensors. • Real-time process monitoring and analytics. • Sustainable and low-emission coating technologies. • Integration with digital production control systems. • Use of recycled and alternative backing materials. • Energy-efficient curing technologies.
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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 → Line Operator → Production Operator - Backing/Coating → Senior Operator → Team Leader → Production 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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