

SSCAR10 Product Testing 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	Carpet and Textile Floor Covering Manufacturing
Functional area	Quality and Compliance
Job role	SSCAR10 Product Testing Technician
Job role description	Conducts physical, performance and compliance testing on carpet products and materials to ensure they meet Australian standards, customer specifications and internal quality requirements. In Australia's carpet manufacturing industry, the Product Testing Technician evaluates finished carpet and intermediate products for durability, wear, flammability, colourfastness, dimensional stability and other performance criteria. The role supports certification, product development and quality assurance by generating accurate, traceable test data. The technician works closely with production, quality, R&D and customer-facing teams to validate product performance, investigate issues and support continuous improvement in a highly regulated and quality-driven environment.
Performance expectations	• Conducting tests in accordance with relevant standards (e.g. AS/ISO). • Producing accurate, repeatable and traceable test results. • Ensuring products meet performance and compliance requirements. • Identifying non-conformance and supporting root cause analysis. • Maintaining calibrated equipment and test environments. • Minimising testing errors and rework. • Maintaining comprehensive records and reports. • Following WHS and laboratory procedures.
Specialisation	Wear and abrasion testing, flammability testing, colourfastness, dimensional stability, acoustic and comfort testing, standards compliance (AS/ISO).

Application in other sectors	• Textile and apparel product testing. • Building materials and flooring testing. • Automotive interiors testing. • Industrial product compliance testing. • Laboratory and quality assurance environments.
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2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	• Preparing samples for testing. • Conducting standardised tests (wear, flammability, colourfastness, etc.). • Operating laboratory testing equipment. • Recording and analysing test results. • Calibrating and maintaining instruments. • Reporting results and non-conformance. • Supporting investigations and product trials. • Maintaining laboratory safety and housekeeping.
Critical work functions	• Ensuring validity and repeatability of test results. • Verifying product compliance with standards and specifications. • Detecting defects and performance issues early. • Maintaining traceability and documentation integrity. • Supporting product certification and customer requirements. • Enabling data-driven quality and product decisions. • Ensuring safe laboratory operations.

3. Technical skills

Standards-based testing	Applying AS/ISO test methods for carpets and materials.
Sample preparation	Preparing representative test specimens.
Laboratory equipment operation	Using abrasion testers, flammability rigs, spectrophotometers, etc.
Measurement and data recording	Accurate measurement and documentation of results.
Equipment calibration	Maintaining and verifying instrument accuracy.
Data analysis	Interpreting results and identifying trends.
Quality systems	Working within Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) frameworks and documentation systems.
Reporting	Preparing clear, compliant test reports.

4. Generic Skills

Attention to detail	Ensuring precision in testing and recording.
Analytical thinking	Interpreting results and identifying anomalies.
Problem solving	Investigating failures and non-conformance.
Communication	Reporting findings to stakeholders.
Time management	Managing test schedules and throughput.

Teamwork	Working with production, QA and R&D.
Integrity	Maintaining accuracy and compliance in reporting.

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	- Automated and high-throughput testing systems. - Digital data capture and Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) integration. - Advanced materials testing (recycled/sustainable fibres). - Predictive analytics for product performance. - Integration with Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) and Manufacturing Execution Systems (MES) for traceability. - Sustainability and lifecycle assessment testing.
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6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

Entry-level preparation	MSL30122 Certificate III in Laboratory Skills or equivalent.
Advanced development	MSL50122 Diploma of Laboratory Technology or equivalent.

7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Production Operator → Testing Technician → Product Testing Technician → Senior Technician → Quality Supervisor / QA Manager.
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8. Classification

Australian Qualifications Framework	Level 3-5.
Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Skill Levels	Skill Level 3.
Open Source Classification of Occupations for Australia (OSCA)	311599 - Science Technicians nec.



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