

SSFOT16 Senior Production 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	Footwear Production
Functional area	Production Management
Job role	SSFOT16 Senior Production Technician
Job role description	Performs advanced technical production tasks across footwear manufacturing stages and provides technical guidance to production teams. Responsible for complex construction processes, machinery setup, troubleshooting, quality validation and supporting continuous improvement initiatives.
Performance expectations	• Maintain high standards of workmanship and output quality. • Resolve complex production issues. • Optimise workflow and machine efficiency. • Provide technical guidance to production staff. • Ensure compliance with safety and quality standards. • Support productivity and waste reduction targets.
Specialisation	• Advanced upper construction and stitching. • Specialist lasting and sole attachment processes. • Machinery setup and process optimisation.
Application in other TCF sectors	Transferable to senior technical production roles in leather goods, apparel and related sectors.

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	• Perform complex production and assembly tasks. • Set up and calibrate specialised footwear machinery. • Troubleshoot technical production issues. • Conduct quality inspections and validate workmanship. • Support training of junior production staff. • Monitor production efficiency and suggest improvements. • Assist supervisors with workflow coordination.
Critical work functions	• Maintain precision in advanced construction processes. • Ensure consistent production quality standards. • Minimise machine downtime through troubleshooting.

	• Support efficient production flow. • Apply technical knowledge to operational challenges. • Maintain safe machinery operation. • Support continuous improvement initiatives.
--	---

3. Technical skills

Advanced footwear construction	Expertise in cutting, stitching, lasting and finishing techniques.
Machinery setup and adjustment	Configure and optimise footwear production equipment.
Technical troubleshooting	Diagnose and resolve mechanical or process issues.
Quality assurance procedures	Apply inspection standards to validate production quality.
Production process knowledge	Understand workflow sequencing and bottleneck management.
Lean improvement techniques*	Contribute to productivity and waste reduction initiatives.
Digital production monitoring systems*	Use digital tools to track output and performance.
Safety compliance awareness	Ensure adherence to WHS standards.

*Technical skills identified as emerging skills in TCF industry.

4. Generic Skills

Problem solving	Resolve complex technical production issues.
Leadership	Provide informal technical guidance to team members.
Communication	Share technical instructions clearly.
Attention to detail	Maintain high workmanship standards.
Teamwork	Collaborate across production functions.
Initiative	Identify opportunities for operational improvement.

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	• Automation-aware machinery operation. • Digital workflow monitoring systems. • Predictive maintenance awareness. • Data-driven efficiency optimisation. • Sustainable production techniques. • Advanced materials handling technologies.
-----------------	---

6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

Entry-level preparation	MST20722 Certificate II in Apparel, Fashion and Textiles or equivalent.
Advanced development	MSM50316 Diploma of Production Management or equivalent.

7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Possible job progression: Production Technician → Senior Production Technician → Production Supervisor → Production Manager.
--------------------------	--

8. Classification

Australian Qualifications Framework	AQF Level 3-5.
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.



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