

SSFOT18 Shoe and Boot Maker Apprentice

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	Craft [artisanal] production
Job role	SSFOT18 Shoe and Boot Maker Apprentice
Job role description	An apprentice undertaking structured trade training to become a qualified Shoe and Boot Maker. Works under supervision in artisanal footwear production or specialist repair and restoration, developing foundational skills across cutting, closing, lasting, assembly, finishing and repair techniques.
Performance expectations	• Demonstrate progressive development of craft skills. • Follow instructions and technical specifications accurately. • Maintain safe and organised work practices. • Produce work to required quality standards under supervision. • Develop understanding of traditional construction methods. • Meet agreed training and competency milestones.
Specialisation	• Bespoke and small-batch footwear production. • Traditional construction methods. • Specialist footwear repair and restoration.
Application in other TCF sectors	Foundation pathway transferable to leather goods production, saddlery and related craft industries.

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	• Assist with material selection and preparation. • Support cutting and component preparation. • Operate basic sewing and assembly equipment under supervision. • Assist with lasting and finishing processes. • Maintain tools and equipment. • Undertake basic repair and restoration tasks. • Complete structured training and competency assessments.
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Critical work functions	• Developing accuracy in measurement and pattern handling. • Maintaining safe handling of tools and machinery. • Supporting workflow within small-batch production. • Learning traditional construction techniques. • Maintaining quality standards under supervision. • Building foundational repair and restoration capability. • Demonstrating reliability and commitment to trade development.

3. Technical skills

Basic cutting techniques	Use hand tools and simple machinery under supervision.
Foundational stitching skills	Operate sewing machines for simple upper assembly tasks.
Material identification	Recognise basic leather types and characteristics.
Pattern interpretation	Read and follow simple patterns and specifications.
Basic lasting and assembly support	Assist with shaping and sole attachment processes.
Repair fundamentals	Assist with minor repairs and component replacement.
Tool maintenance	Clean and maintain tools and workstations.
WHS compliance	Follow workplace safety procedures.

4. Generic Skills

Willingness to learn	Demonstrate commitment to trade skill development.
Attention to detail	Maintain accuracy in basic craft tasks.
Communication	Seek guidance and clarify instructions.
Time management	Meet training and production deadlines.
Teamwork	Work collaboratively with qualified tradespersons.
Initiative	Take responsibility for continuous improvement.

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	• Exposure to digital pattern systems. • Sustainable material awareness. • Integration of traditional and digital techniques. • Custom measurement technologies. • Digital production documentation. • Heritage restoration awareness.
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6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

Entry-level preparation	MST30416 Certificate III in Footwear.
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Advanced development	MST40316 Certificate IV in Custom-Made Footwear.
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7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Possible job progression: Apprentice Shoe and Boot Maker → Qualified Shoe and Boot Maker → Master Shoemaker → Workshop Owner.
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8. Classification

Australian Qualifications Framework	AQF Level 3 (upon completion of apprenticeship).
Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Skill Levels	Skill Level 3.
Open Source Classification of Occupations for Australia (OSCA)	399437 Shoemaker.



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