

SSGIN05 Materials Handling Operator (Forklift / Front End Loader / Module Feeder)

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	Cotton Ginning
Functional area	Production Operations
Job role	SSGIN05 Materials Handling Operator (Forklift / Front End Loader / Module Feeder)
Job role description	Operates mobile plant and material handling equipment to move, stage and feed cotton modules and processed materials into and through the ginning process. In the Australian cotton ginning sector—characterised by high-volume, seasonal operations—the Materials Handling Operator plays a critical role in maintaining continuous plant throughput. The role ensures timely delivery of cotton modules to feeders and movement of lint, seed and by-products across the site. The operator works closely with ginning operators and supervisors to ensure efficient workflow, safe equipment operation and minimal disruption to production during peak processing periods.
Performance expectations	• Maintaining continuous supply of cotton modules to feeders. • Operating mobile plant safely and efficiently. • Minimising delays in material flow. • Preventing contamination or damage to cotton. • Supporting production throughput targets. • Maintaining equipment condition and reporting faults. • Ensuring safe site traffic and operations. • Following WHS and operational procedures.
Specialisation	Module feeding systems, forklift operation, front end loader operation, bulk fibre handling, yard logistics.
Application in other TCF sectors	• Agricultural processing and bulk handling. • Warehousing and logistics operations. • Construction and civil materials handling.

	• Manufacturing and industrial sites. • Mining and resource sectors.
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2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	• Feeding cotton modules into module feeders. • Operating forklifts and loaders to move materials. • Transporting lint, seed and by-products. • Staging materials for processing or dispatch. • Monitoring material flow and supply levels. • Inspecting equipment before and after use. • Maintaining yard organisation and cleanliness. • Communicating with operators and supervisors.
Critical work functions	• Ensuring uninterrupted material flow to ginning systems. • Maintaining safe operation of mobile plant. • Preventing delays or bottlenecks in production. • Maintaining integrity and quality of cotton materials. • Supporting efficient site logistics and traffic management. • Ensuring compliance with safety standards. • Coordinating with production teams.

3. Technical skills

Mobile plant operation	Operating forklifts, loaders and feeders.
Module feeding	Managing cotton module input systems.
Material handling	Moving and staging cotton and by-products.
Equipment inspection	Conducting pre- and post-operation checks.
Load management	Handling bulk materials safely.
Basic troubleshooting	Identifying equipment issues.
Site logistics	Understanding yard flow and layout.
Safety procedures	Applying WHS for mobile equipment.

4. Generic Skills

Attention to detail	Ensuring correct material handling.
Situational awareness	Maintaining safe site operations.
Communication	Coordinating with operators and supervisors.
Time management	Maintaining continuous supply flow.
Teamwork	Working across production and logistics teams.
Problem solving	Responding to flow or equipment issues.
Reliability	Supporting consistent production operations.

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	- Automated and GPS-guided equipment. - Digital yard management systems. - Telematics and fleet monitoring. - Data-driven logistics optimisation. - Sustainability and fuel efficiency practices. - Integration with logistics, inventory management and production systems.
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6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

Entry-level preparation	Completion of training and if required licence for mobile plant and material handling equipment to move, stage and feed cotton modules. Forklift operators are required to hold TLILIC0003 Licence to operate a forklift truck.
Advanced development	MSM20116 Certificate II in Process Manufacturing or equivalent.

7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Yard Hand / Seasonal Worker → Materials Handling Operator → Senior Operator → Logistics Coordinator → Supervisor.
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8. Classification

Australian Qualifications Framework	Level 2.
Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Skill Levels	Skill Level 4.
Open Source Classification of Occupations for Australia (OSCA)	741331 Forklift Driver.



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