

SSGIN06 Baler / Press Operator

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	SSGIN06 Baler / Press Operator
Job role description	Operates bale press systems to compress processed cotton lint into standardised bales for storage, transport and sale. In the Australian cotton ginning sector—characterised by high-throughput, export-oriented production—the Baler / Press Operator plays a critical role in finalising fibre output. The role ensures cotton lint is pressed to required density, correctly wrapped and labelled to meet industry and customer specifications. The operator works closely with ginning operators, quality staff and logistics teams to ensure bale consistency, traceability and efficient downstream handling.
Performance expectations	- Producing bales to required weight, density and specification. - Operating press systems safely and efficiently. - Ensuring correct bale identification and traceability. - Maintaining consistent bale quality and presentation. - Minimising fibre loss and contamination. - Supporting continuous production flow. - Recording bale data accurately. - Following WHS and operational procedures.
Specialisation	Cotton bale pressing systems, fibre compaction, bale wrapping and tagging, export preparation.
Application in other TCF sectors	- Agricultural product baling and packaging. - Textile and fibre industries. - Recycling and materials compaction. - Manufacturing packaging operations. - Bulk commodity handling industries.

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	• Operating bale press and compaction equipment. • Loading lint into press systems. • Monitoring bale weight and density. • Wrapping and securing bales. • Labelling and tagging bales for traceability. • Recording bale and production data. • Moving bales to storage or dispatch areas. • Cleaning and maintaining press equipment.
Critical work functions	• Ensuring consistent bale quality and specifications. • Maintaining accurate bale identification and traceability. • Supporting efficient downstream logistics and export. • Preventing contamination and fibre loss. • Ensuring safe operation of press equipment. • Maintaining production flow from processing to dispatch. • Supporting compliance with customer and industry standards.

3. Technical skills

Press operation	Operating bale press machinery.
Material handling	Handling processed cotton lint safely.
Weighing and measurement	Ensuring correct bale weight and density.
Labelling and tagging	Applying traceability systems.
Quality inspection	Checking bale integrity and condition.
Equipment monitoring	Observing system performance.
Basic troubleshooting	Resolving minor equipment issues.
Documentation	Recording bale production data.

4. Generic Skills

Attention to detail	Ensuring accurate bale specifications.
Problem solving	Addressing equipment or quality issues.
Time management	Maintaining production flow.
Communication	Coordinating with production and logistics teams.
Teamwork	Working across plant operations.
Physical capability	Handling materials and equipment.
Safety awareness	Applying WHS in mechanical environments.

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	• Automated bale handling and robotics. • Digital traceability and tagging systems. • Integration with logistics and enterprise resource planning (ERP) systems.
-----------------	--

	• Data-driven production monitoring and reporting. • Sustainability and waste reduction practices. • Advanced packaging technologies.
--	---

6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

Entry-level preparation	No skill set or qualification.
Advanced development	No skill set or qualification.

7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Process Worker → Baler / Press Operator → Senior Operator → Logistics or Production Supervisor.
--------------------------	---

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)	731999 – Machine Operators nec.



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