

SSMTC09 Finishing 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	Cut and Sewn Products (Non-Garment)
Functional area	Textile Fabrication - Finishing, Inspection and Packaging
Job role	SSMTC09 Finishing Operator
Job role description	Performs final-stage finishing, inspection and preparation activities within the cut and sewn non-garment sector of the TCF industry to ensure products meet quality, presentation and dispatch requirements. This role is identified within the Textile Fabrication - Finishing, Inspection and Packaging function of the occupational framework for cut and sewn products. The Finishing Operator supports the completion of a wide range of non-garment textile and fabricated products including household textiles, industrial fabrics, upholstery systems, transport interiors, bags, technical textile assemblies, tarpaulins, protective systems, marine products and specialised fabricated items. The role involves carrying out finishing operations such as trimming, edge finishing, cleaning, steaming, pressing, folding, labelling, fitting of accessories and final preparation prior to inspection, packaging and dispatch. The Finishing Operator is also responsible for conducting visual and dimensional inspections to identify defects, inconsistencies or non-compliance issues before products are released for packing and distribution. The role requires detailed understanding of product specifications, finishing standards, material handling requirements and presentation expectations across a range of textile and fabricated products. It also requires careful attention to seam quality, component integrity, surface appearance, accessory attachment and overall product functionality. The position works closely with sewing operators, fabrication teams, quality inspectors, packing personnel and production supervisors to ensure products are completed efficiently,

	consistently and in accordance with customer and operational requirements.
Performance expectations	• Completing products to required finishing and presentation standards. • Identifying and rectifying defects prior to dispatch. • Supporting efficient workflow through finishing and packing operations. • Maintaining dimensional accuracy and product integrity. • Ensuring products meet customer, operational and quality requirements. • Following quality assurance and workplace safety procedures. • Maintaining traceability and production documentation where required. • Minimising rework, waste and dispatch delays. • Supporting consistent product quality and operational efficiency.
Specialisation	Textile finishing, product inspection, pressing and steaming, edge finishing, accessory fitting, quality preparation and dispatch readiness.
Application in other TCF sectors	Automotive interiors, marine fabrication, industrial textiles, transport systems, defence textiles, furniture and upholstery manufacturing, technical textile products and household furnishing systems.

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	• Inspecting finished products for defects, dimensional accuracy and presentation quality. • Trimming threads, excess materials and finishing edges. • Performing pressing, steaming and appearance preparation activities. • Fitting accessories, hardware, fasteners and labels where required. • Cleaning and preparing products for final inspection and dispatch. • Folding, stacking and preparing products for packaging. • Identifying and reporting defects, inconsistencies and quality issues. • Maintaining finishing equipment and work areas. • Recording quality, production and traceability information. • Following operational, quality and safety procedures.
Critical work functions	• Ensuring products meet finishing, presentation and quality standards. • Preventing defective or non-compliant products from reaching dispatch. • Maintaining consistency across finished products and assemblies. • Supporting efficient workflow between production, inspection and packing operations. • Maintaining safe handling and preparation of finished products. • Supporting traceability and documentation accuracy. • Minimising rework, delays and product returns.

	Contributing to customer satisfaction and operational reliability.
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3. Technical skills

Product finishing	Performing trimming, steaming, pressing and final preparation.
Inspection and quality control	Identifying defects and non-compliance issues.
Accessory fitting	Attaching labels, fittings and hardware components.
Material handling	Managing finished products safely and efficiently.
Presentation standards	Ensuring visual consistency and product readiness.
Equipment operation	Using finishing equipment and tools.
Documentation	Maintaining quality and production records.
Workplace safety	Applying WHS procedures and safe handling practices.

4. Generic Skills

Attention to detail	Maintaining finishing quality and inspection accuracy.
Communication	Working with production and quality teams.
Problem solving	Identifying and resolving finishing issues.
Teamwork	Supporting integrated production and dispatch operations.
Time management	Meeting finishing and dispatch schedules.
Adaptability	Responding to varied product and finishing requirements.
Reliability	Maintaining consistent finishing standards.
Professionalism	Following quality and operational procedures.

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	- Automated inspection and finishing systems. - Digital quality tracking and traceability systems. - Smart manufacturing integration in finishing workflows. - Sustainable finishing and packaging practices. - Advanced textile treatment and appearance technologies. - Digital workflow integration between production, QA and dispatch systems.
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6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

Entry-level preparation	MST20722 Certificate II in Apparel, Fashion and Textiles or equivalent.
Advanced development	MST30222 Certificate III in Manufactured Textile Products or equivalent.

7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Production Assistant → Finishing Operator → Senior Finishing Operator → Quality Inspector → Production Supervisor.
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8. Classification

Australian Qualifications Framework	Level 2-3.
Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Skill Levels	Skill Level 4-3.
Open Source Classification of Occupations for Australia (OSCA)	399432 Canvas Goods Fabricator.



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