

SSNST06 Coating and Lamination 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	Natural and Synthetic Textile Manufacturing
Functional area	Technical Textile Production
Job role	SSNST06 Coating and Lamination Operator
Job role description	Operates and monitors specialised coating, lamination and bonding machinery used in the manufacture of functional and performance-enhanced textile materials within the natural and synthetic textiles sector of the TCF industry. This role is identified as a core occupation within the Technical Textile Production function of the Natural and Synthetic Textile Manufacturing Occupational Framework. The Coating and Lamination Operator is responsible for applying coatings, films, membranes and bonded layers to textile substrates to enhance fabric durability, waterproofness, flame resistance, abrasion resistance, chemical resistance, thermal performance and other specialised technical properties. The role supports the production of technical textiles used in industrial, medical, defence, agricultural, automotive, transport, filtration, infrastructure and protective applications. Operators work with both natural fibre textiles, such as cotton and wool, and synthetic materials, including polyester, nylon, polypropylene, aramid and advanced technical fabrics. The position requires operation of coating, calendaring, laminating, curing and bonding systems using materials such as polyvinyl chloride (PVC), polyurethane (PU), polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), acrylics, adhesives, thermoplastic films and specialised chemical coatings. Operators monitor coating weights, curing temperatures, lamination pressures, tension control, line speeds and substrate performance to ensure finished materials meet technical and customer specifications. The Coating and Lamination Operator works closely with textile technologists, production supervisors, maintenance technicians,

	chemical process specialists and quality personnel to maintain efficient production, minimise defects, support product consistency and ensure compliance with operational and environmental standards. The role also contributes to troubleshooting, machine setup, sustainability initiatives, waste minimisation and continuous improvement activities that support advanced textile manufacturing operations in Australia.
Performance expectations	• Producing coated and laminated textiles that meet technical and functional performance specifications. • Operating coating and lamination machinery safely and efficiently. • Maintaining coating consistency, adhesion quality and substrate integrity. • Minimising coating defects, contamination and production waste. • Supporting effective machine setup, calibration and process control. • Monitoring curing, bonding and finishing performance throughout production. • Supporting compliance with safety, environmental and quality procedures. • Maintaining traceability and production documentation. • Contributing to productivity, sustainability and continuous improvement initiatives.
Specialisation	Textile coating systems, lamination technologies, polymer applications, technical textile finishing, bonded textile systems, waterproof textile production and performance textile manufacturing.
Application in other TCF sectors	Protective textiles, industrial textiles, medical textiles, transport textiles, filtration systems, defence textiles, agricultural textiles, architectural textiles and advanced material manufacturing.

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	• Operating coating, laminating and calendaring machinery. • Preparing textile substrates, coatings and polymer materials for production. • Monitoring coating weights, curing temperatures, pressures and line speeds. • Applying PVC, PU, PTFE and other specialised coatings and laminates. • Conducting visual and technical inspections of coated and laminated textiles. • Identifying coating defects, delamination, contamination and process inconsistencies. • Adjusting machine settings to maintain coating quality and production efficiency. • Performing routine cleaning, calibration and basic maintenance activities. • Recording production, quality and traceability information. • Following workplace safety, environmental and operational procedures.
-----------	--

Critical work functions	- Ensuring coated and laminated textiles meet technical, functional and performance specifications. - Maintaining substrate integrity, adhesion performance and coating consistency. - Preventing coating defects, contamination and process failures. - Supporting efficient workflow across coating and lamination operations. - Maintaining safe operation of chemical and thermal processing systems. - Supporting compliance with technical, environmental and customer standards. - Maintaining traceability and documentation integrity. - Contributing to operational reliability, sustainability and advanced manufacturing capability.
-------------------------	---

3. Technical skills

Coating and lamination operations	Operating specialised coating and bonding machinery.
Polymer and chemical knowledge	Understanding coatings, adhesives and technical textile chemistry.
Machine setup and adjustment	Adjusting process parameters for coating consistency and adhesion.
Thermal and curing systems	Monitoring curing temperatures and process conditions.
Technical quality control	Inspecting coated and laminated textile performance.
Process monitoring	Identifying faults and maintaining production continuity.
Basic maintenance	Performing cleaning and routine machine servicing.
Documentation and traceability	Maintaining production and quality records.

4. Generic Skills

Attention to detail	Maintaining coating quality and process consistency.
Communication	Working with supervisors, technicians and production teams.
Problem solving	Resolving coating and lamination process issues.
Teamwork	Supporting integrated technical textile manufacturing operations.
Time management	Meeting production schedules and throughput targets.
Adaptability	Working across multiple coating and finishing systems.
Reliability	Maintaining consistent operational performance.
Professionalism	Following operational, environmental and safety standards.

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	- Sustainable and solvent-free coating technologies. - Smart textile coatings and functional surface systems.
-----------------	--

	• Advanced membrane and multilayer textile technologies. • Industry 4.0 integration in coating and lamination operations. • Digital process analytics and predictive maintenance systems. • High-performance polymer systems and advanced technical textile coatings.
--	--

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	Technical Textile Production Assistant → Coating and Lamination Operator → Senior Coating Operator → Production Team Leader → Production Supervisor.
--------------------------	--

8. Classification

Australian Qualifications Framework	Level 2-3.
Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Skill Levels	Skill Level 4.
Open Source Classification of Occupations for Australia (OSCA)	7314432 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.