

SSNST10 Finishing Machinist

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	Textile Manufacturing and Fabric Production
Functional area	Post Production Finishing Operations
Job role	SSNST10 Finishing Machinist
Job role description	Supports the finishing, presentation, inspection and preparation of woven and finished textile products within textile manufacturing operations to ensure products meet quality, presentation and customer specifications. In the Australian textile manufacturing industry—where product quality, consistency, textile durability and presentation standards are critical—the Finishing Machinist – Textile Fabric Production is responsible for performing post-production finishing operations on woven textile products including woollen blankets, scarves, furnishing textiles and technical fabrics. The role supports production efficiency by inspecting, repairing, finishing and preparing textile products for dispatch while maintaining product quality and workplace safety standards. The role commonly supports finishing operations following weaving, washing, milling, dyeing, brushing and pressing processes. Finishing machinists work with industrial sewing and textile finishing equipment to complete edge finishing, binding, hemming, trimming, labelling and repair activities while ensuring products comply with workplace quality and presentation requirements.
Performance expectations	- Inspecting woven textile products for faults, loose threads, damage and finishing defects. - Performing hemming, edge binding, overlocking and reinforcement stitching operations. - Operating industrial sewing, overlocking and textile finishing equipment safely. - Repairing weaving and finishing defects in woollen and woven textile products.

	- Supporting brushing, pressing, steaming and fabric presentation processes. - Attaching labels, care instructions, Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags and identification markings. - Trimming excess fibres, threads and unfinished textile edges. - Folding, packaging and preparing finished textile products for dispatch. - Maintaining workplace cleanliness and equipment safety standards. - Meeting textile finishing quality and production targets.
Specialisation	Woollen blanket finishing, scarf finishing, textile edge finishing, industrial sewing, textile inspection, pressing and packaging.
Application in other TCF sectors	- Textile manufacturing supporting woven and finished fabric production operations. - Home furnishings supporting finishing and preparation of blankets, upholstery and furnishing textiles. - Apparel manufacturing supporting fabric and product finishing operations. - Technical textiles supporting reinforcement and finishing of industrial textile products. - Commercial laundry and linen services supporting textile repair and presentation standards. - Textile restoration and specialty textile production supporting repair and finishing activities.

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	- Inspecting woven textile products for weaving faults, stains, holes and finishing defects. - Performing hemming, edge stitching and blanket binding operations. - Operating industrial sewing machines, overlockers and textile finishing equipment. - Repairing damaged seams, selvages and woven fabric defects. - Supporting brushing, steaming, pressing and shaping operations. - Trimming loose threads, fibres and unfinished edges. - Folding, packaging and preparing finished products for dispatch. - Attaching labels, care instructions and product identification tags. - Maintaining finishing equipment and work areas in safe operating condition. - Following workplace health, safety and textile handling procedures.
Critical work functions	- Maintaining textile quality, appearance and presentation standards. - Preventing defective products from entering dispatch and distribution. - Supporting production efficiency through timely finishing operations. - Ensuring consistency in textile finishing and product preparation. - Supporting safe handling of textile products and machinery.

	Adapting to varying textile types, production volumes and customer specifications.
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3. Technical skills

Textile inspection	Identifying weaving faults, damage, loose threads, stains and finishing inconsistencies in woven textile products.
Industrial sewing	Operating sewing machines, overlockers and edge finishing equipment safely and efficiently.
Edge finishing	Performing hemming, binding, overlocking and reinforcement stitching operations.
Textile repair	Repairing minor weaving defects, damaged seams and selvages.
Pressing and steaming	Applying pressing and steaming techniques to improve textile presentation and shape.
Textile handling	Applying correct handling techniques for woollen and woven textile products.
Packaging preparation	Folding, labelling and preparing finished textile products for dispatch.
Workflow coordination	Supporting production continuity between finishing, inspection and dispatch areas.

4. Generic Skills

Teamwork	Working collaboratively with weaving, finishing and production teams.
Communication	Communicating quality concerns, repair requirements and production priorities.
Time management	Managing finishing workloads to meet production schedules and dispatch targets.
Attention to detail	Ensuring textile products meet quality, presentation and measurement standards.
Adaptability	Supporting different textile products, production runs and customer specifications.
Problem solving	Addressing finishing defects, repair issues and textile handling challenges.
Safety awareness	Applying safe machinery operation and workplace safety practices.

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	- Adopting automated textile inspection and finishing technologies. - Supporting digital production tracking and quality monitoring systems. - Applying sustainable textile finishing and waste reduction practices. - Supporting advanced textile presentation and packaging processes. - Enhancing workflow efficiency through integrated textile finishing coordination.
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6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

Entry-level preparation	MSTSS00015 Industrial Sewing Skill Set or equivalent.
Advanced development	MST31022 Certificate III in Apparel, Fashion and Textiles.

7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Finishing Machinist → Senior Finishing Operator → Textile Quality Inspector → Team Leader → Production Supervisor → Textile Operations Manager.
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8. Classification

Australian Qualifications Framework	AQF Level 2-3.
Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Skill Levels	Skill Level 4.
Open Source Classification of Occupations for Australia (OSCA)	731431 Sewing Machinist.



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