

SSNST12 Multiskilled Fabric 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	Natural and Synthetic Textile Manufacturing
Functional area	Fabric Finishing
Job role	SSNST12 Multiskilled Fabric Finishing Operator
Job role description	Operates, monitors and supports textile finishing equipment used to apply mechanical and chemical treatments that achieve the required appearance, handle and performance characteristics of woven, knitted and nonwoven fabrics. The role prepares finishing chemicals, sets up finishing machinery, monitors process parameters and ensures finished fabrics meet customer and product specifications. The role works across a range of finishing technologies including washing, drying, tentering, calendaring, raising, shearing, compacting, coating and specialised functional finishing processes. It requires knowledge of textile fibres, fabric behaviour, finishing chemistry and process control. The position collaborates with production teams, textile technologists, maintenance technicians and quality personnel to deliver consistent product quality, efficient production and sustainable manufacturing outcomes.
Performance expectations	- Producing finished fabrics that meet quality and customer specifications. - Maintaining consistent appearance, handle and performance characteristics. - Operating finishing equipment safely and efficiently. - Preparing and applying finishing treatments accurately. - Minimising defects, waste and reprocessing. - Maintaining production documentation and traceability. - Supporting workplace safety and environmental compliance. - Contributing to productivity and continuous improvement.

Specialisation	Mechanical finishing, chemical finishing, coating, calendaring, raising, shearing, tentering, functional textile finishing.
Application in other TCF sectors	• Apparel manufacturing. • Furnishing textiles. • Industrial and technical textiles. • Automotive textiles. • Biomedical textiles.

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	• Prepare finishing chemicals and auxiliaries. • Set up and operate finishing equipment. • Monitor machine settings and process parameters. • Inspect finished fabrics for quality and compliance. • Adjust finishing processes to achieve specifications. • Complete drying, curing and stabilisation processes. • Maintain production records. • Perform routine operator maintenance. • Follow WHS and environmental procedures.
Critical work functions	• Maintain fabric appearance and performance characteristics. • Ensure compliance with product specifications. • Prevent finishing defects and quality variations. • Support efficient production operations. • Maintain traceability. • Support quality assurance. • Minimise waste, chemicals and energy consumption. • Maintain safe finishing operations.

3. Technical skills

Fabric finishing operations	Operating mechanical and chemical finishing equipment.
Finishing chemistry	Preparing and applying finishing chemicals and auxiliaries.
Machine setup	Setting production parameters for finishing processes.
Process control	Monitoring temperature, pressure, speed, tension and chemical application.
Fabric quality control	Assessing appearance, handle and performance characteristics.
Textile knowledge	Understanding fibre and fabric behaviour during finishing.
Troubleshooting	Identifying and resolving finishing process faults.
Documentation and traceability	Maintaining production and quality records.
Environmental compliance	Supporting sustainable chemical use, wastewater management and environmental compliance.

4. Generic Skills

Attention to detail	Maintaining consistent fabric quality and finishing standards.
Communication	Working with production, maintenance and quality personnel.

Problem solving	Resolving finishing and production issues.
Teamwork	Supporting integrated manufacturing operations.
Time management	Meeting production schedules.
Adaptability	Working across multiple finishing technologies.
Reliability	Maintaining consistent operational performance.
Professionalism	Following safety, quality and environmental standards.

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	• Smart finishing technologies. • Automated process monitoring. • Digital process control and analytics. • Low-impact finishing chemistry. • Functional and technical textile finishing. • Industry 4.0 manufacturing integration. • Circular and sustainable textile manufacturing.
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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	Finishing Assistant → Fabric Finishing Operator → Multiskilled Fabric Finishing Operator → Senior Finishing Operator → Finishing Team Leader → Finishing Supervisor.
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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.



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