

SSROP02 Production Operator [Rope, Cordage & Twine]

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	Rope, Cordage and Twine Manufacturing
Functional area	Production Operations
Job role	SSROP02 Production Operator [Rope, Cordage & Twine]
Job role description	Operates machinery and processes involved in the manufacture of rope, cordage and twine products, ensuring consistent product quality, safe operation and efficient production output. In the Australian rope, cordage and twine sector, this role is a core production occupation within a small-scale, multi-skilled manufacturing workforce structure. The Production Operator is responsible for producing a wide range of products including twisted ropes, braided cords, plaited lines and twines used across industrial, marine, agricultural and construction applications. The role involves operating and monitoring machinery such as extrusion lines, twisting frames, braiding machines, winding systems and finishing equipment. The operator must ensure correct material feed, machine settings, product specifications and output quality while maintaining safe and efficient production processes. The position requires a strong understanding of fibre behaviour, yarn construction and rope-making techniques, as well as the ability to identify defects, perform basic maintenance and support continuous improvement in production operations.
Performance expectations	• Operating machinery safely and efficiently. • Producing products to specification and quality standards. • Maintaining consistency in product construction and performance. • Minimising waste, defects and downtime. • Monitoring production processes and adjusting settings as required.

	• Maintaining accurate production records and traceability. • Following WHS and operational procedures. • Supporting team productivity and workflow efficiency. • Identifying and reporting equipment or process issues.
Specialisation	Rope production, cordage manufacturing, twisting, braiding, extrusion and finishing processes.
Application in other TCF sectors	Marine, construction, agriculture, mining, defence, transport, industrial manufacturing.

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	• Operating rope-making machinery including extrusion, twisting, braiding and winding equipment. • Loading and handling fibres, yarns and materials. • Setting machine parameters to meet product specifications. • Monitoring production processes and output quality. • Identifying and correcting defects in products. • Performing basic equipment maintenance and cleaning. • Recording production data and batch information. • Following standard operating procedures and safety requirements. • Assisting with changeovers and product variations.
Critical work functions	• Ensuring products meet required strength, construction and performance specifications. • Maintaining consistent production quality and output. • Preventing product defects and failures. • Ensuring safe operation of machinery and equipment. • Supporting efficient production flow and minimal downtime. • Maintaining traceability of materials and production batches. • Supporting compliance with quality and safety standards. • Contributing to continuous improvement in production operations.

3. Technical skills

Machine operation	Operating extrusion, twisting, braiding and winding machinery.
Material handling	Managing fibres, yarns and finished products.
Process monitoring	Observing and adjusting machine settings.
Product inspection	Identifying defects and inconsistencies.
Basic maintenance	Performing cleaning and minor repairs.
Production documentation	Recording batch and production data.
Quality awareness	Ensuring products meet specifications.
Safety practices	Applying WHS procedures.

4. Generic Skills

Attention to detail	Ensuring accuracy in production processes.
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Communication	Working with supervisors and team members.
Problem solving	Identifying and resolving production issues.
Teamwork	Supporting production operations.
Time management	Meeting production targets.
Adaptability	Responding to changes in production requirements.
Reliability	Maintaining consistent performance.
Professionalism	Following workplace standards and procedures.

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	- Automation and advanced rope-making machinery. - Digital monitoring and control systems. - Sustainable fibre materials and recycling processes. - Advanced braiding and high-performance fibre handling. - Lean manufacturing and process optimisation techniques. - Integration of smart technologies in production.
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6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

Entry-level preparation	MSM20116 Certificate II in Process Manufacturing or equivalent.
Advanced development	MSM30116 Certificate III in Process Manufacturing or equivalent.

7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Production Assistant → Production Operator → Senior Operator → Production Supervisor → Production Manager.
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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)	731432 Textile or Footwear Production Machine Operator.



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