

SSROP03 Fabrication and 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	Rope, Cordage and Twine Manufacturing
Functional area	Production Operations
Job role	SSROP03 Fabrication and Finishing Operator
Job role description	Performs fabrication, assembly and finishing processes on rope, cordage and twine products, ensuring final products meet required specifications, performance standards and customer requirements. In the Australian rope, cordage and twine sector, this role is a core production function responsible for transforming partially manufactured rope and cordage into finished, application-ready products. This includes processes such as cutting, splicing, whipping, heat sealing, coating, packaging and preparation for dispatch. The Fabrication and Finishing Operator works across a range of product types including marine ropes, lifting slings, industrial cords, agricultural twines and custom technical assemblies. The role requires precision handling, attention to detail and a strong understanding of product specifications and end-use requirements. The operator collaborates with production teams, quality personnel and supervisors to ensure products are finished correctly, safely and efficiently, maintaining consistency and compliance with industry standards.
Performance expectations	• Completing fabrication and finishing tasks to specification. • Ensuring high-quality product presentation and performance. • Maintaining consistency and accuracy in cutting, splicing and assembly.

	• Minimising defects, waste and rework. • Following safety and operational procedures. • Maintaining traceability and production records. • Supporting efficient workflow and output targets. • Identifying and reporting quality or process issues.
Specialisation	Splicing, cutting, finishing, assembly, coating, packaging and custom rope fabrication.
Application in other TCF sectors	Marine, construction, agriculture, mining, defence, transport, industrial manufacturing.

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	• Cutting ropes, cords and twines to required lengths. • Performing splicing, knotting and joining techniques. • Applying finishing methods such as heat sealing, whipping and coating. • Assembling rope products into finished configurations (e.g. slings, loops, assemblies). • Inspecting finished products for defects and compliance. • Preparing products for packaging and dispatch. • Maintaining tools and finishing equipment. • Recording production and batch information. • Following standard operating procedures and safety requirements.
Critical work functions	• Ensuring finished products meet required specifications and performance standards. • Maintaining structural integrity of rope and cordage during fabrication. • Preventing defects that impact safety or usability. • Supporting consistency and quality in finishing processes. • Maintaining traceability of products and materials. • Ensuring safe handling and processing of materials. • Supporting efficient production and dispatch operations. • Contributing to overall product reliability and customer satisfaction.

3. Technical skills

Fabrication techniques	Splicing, knotting, cutting and assembly of rope products.
Finishing processes	Heat sealing, whipping, coating and treatment application.
Tool use	Using cutting tools, splicing tools and finishing equipment.
Product inspection	Identifying defects and ensuring compliance.
Material handling	Managing rope, cordage and twine materials.
Documentation	Recording production and batch details.
Quality awareness	Understanding product specifications and standards.
Safety practices	Applying WHS procedures.

4. Generic Skills

Attention to detail	Ensuring precision in finishing and assembly.
Communication	Working with production and supervisory teams.
Problem solving	Resolving fabrication and finishing issues.
Teamwork	Supporting production workflow.
Time management	Meeting production and dispatch timelines.
Adaptability	Responding to varied product requirements.
Reliability	Maintaining consistent performance.
Professionalism	Following workplace standards and procedures.

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	- Automation in cutting and finishing processes. - Advanced synthetic fibre handling. - Sustainable finishing and coating techniques. - Digital tracking and traceability systems. - Customised product fabrication technologies. - Integration of smart tagging or identification systems.
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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 → Fabrication and Finishing 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 3.
Open Source Classification of Occupations for Australia (OSCA)	399999 Technicians and Trade Workers nec.



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