

SSDCL03 Pressing / Finishing Technician

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	Dry Cleaning and Laundry Services
Functional area	Garment Processing
Job role	SSDCL03 Pressing / Finishing Technician
Job role description	Performs garment finishing processes including pressing, steaming and shaping to restore garment form and ensure high-quality presentation prior to customer delivery. In the Australian dry cleaning industry—where operations must comply with workplace health, safety and equipment requirements—the Pressing / Finishing Technician applies knowledge of fabric behaviour, heat and steam application to maintain garment integrity while supporting production efficiency and customer satisfaction.
Performance expectations	• Operating pressing and finishing equipment to achieve required garment presentation standards. • Applying appropriate heat, steam and pressure based on fabric type and garment construction. • Restoring garment shape, structure and appearance during finishing processes. • Maintaining garment quality and preventing damage such as scorching or distortion. • Ensuring compliance with workplace health, safety and equipment operation procedures. • Meeting production targets and workflow requirements. • Maintaining accurate garment handling and tracking throughout finishing stages. • Coordinating with cleaning and inspection teams to ensure quality outcomes. • Maintaining cleanliness and organisation of finishing work areas. • Contributing to continuous improvement in finishing quality and productivity.

Specialisation	Delicate garment finishing, formalwear pressing, structured garments, high-value garments, steam finishing techniques.
Application in other TCF sectors	- Commercial laundry and linen services supporting finishing and presentation of large-scale textile outputs. - Textile manufacturing and finishing supporting final fabric finishing and presentation processes. - Apparel production and garment finishing supporting garment shaping and preparation for retail presentation. - Technical textile and specialty services supporting finishing of specialised textile products. - Textile restoration services supporting finishing and presentation of restored garments. - Leather and suede processing supporting finishing and shaping of treated materials. - Manufacturing and processing industries supporting final product presentation and finishing processes.

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	- Inspecting garments to determine finishing requirements. - Selecting appropriate pressing techniques based on fabric and garment type. - Operating presses, irons and finishing equipment. - Applying steam and pressure to remove wrinkles and shape garments. - Handling garments carefully to prevent damage during finishing. - Preparing garments for packaging and delivery. - Maintaining finishing equipment and workstations. - Following workplace health, safety and equipment procedures.
Critical work functions	- Maintaining garment presentation and quality standards. - Applying correct temperature and pressure settings to avoid damage. - Ensuring consistent finishing outcomes across garment types. - Managing workflow to meet production timelines. - Ensuring safe operation of equipment. - Coordinating with production and inspection teams.

3. Technical skills

Pressing techniques	Applying heat, steam and pressure to achieve garment finish and shape.
Equipment operation	Operating presses, irons and finishing equipment safely.
Fabric handling	Handling different fabrics appropriately during finishing.
Steam application	Using steam effectively to remove wrinkles and shape garments.
Garment shaping	Restoring garment form and structure during finishing processes.
Temperature control	Adjusting heat settings based on fabric requirements.
Quality control	Inspecting finished garments to ensure presentation standards.

4. Generic Skills

Attention to detail	Ensuring garments meet presentation and quality standards.
Problem solving	Resolving finishing issues such as creasing or shape distortion.
Communication	Communicating garment requirements with production teams.
Teamwork	Working collaboratively across operational teams.
Time management	Managing workload to meet production targets.
Adaptability	Handling a variety of garment types and finishing requirements.
Safety awareness	Applying safe practices when using heat and steam equipment.

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	• Adopting energy-efficient finishing equipment and processes. • Applying advanced finishing techniques for modern fabrics. • Using automated finishing and pressing systems. • Implementing sustainable finishing practices. • Handling technical and performance textiles. • Integrating digital workflow systems into finishing operations.
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6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

Entry-level preparation	MSTSS00011 Ironer Safety Skill Set.
Advanced development	MST30922 Certificate III in Dry Cleaning Operations.

7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Pressing Technician → Senior Finishing Technician → Finishing Supervisor → Production Supervisor → Production Manager.
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8. Classification

Australian Qualifications Framework	AQF Level 2-3.
Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Skill Levels	Skill Level 5.
Open Source Classification of Occupations for Australia (OSCA)	811332 Laundry Worker.



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