

SSDCL15 Laundry Worker – Soil Sort

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	Commercial Laundry and Linen Services
Functional area	Laundry Operations
Job role	SSDCL15 Laundry Worker – Soil Sort
Job role description	Sorts soiled linen and textile items by type, colour, soil level and processing requirements to prepare loads for efficient and safe washing processes. In the Australian laundry industry—where hygiene, infection control and workflow efficiency are critical—the Soil Sort Worker applies knowledge of textile categories and contamination risks to ensure correct segregation, prevent cross-contamination and support downstream washing and finishing operations.
Performance expectations	• Sorting soiled linen by fabric type, colour and soil level to meet processing requirements. • Identifying contaminated or hazardous items and applying appropriate handling procedures. • Segregating items to prevent cross-contamination and ensure hygiene standards. • Preparing sorted loads for washing in line with batch and workflow requirements. • Maintaining accurate identification and tracking of linen batches. • Following workplace health, safety and infection control procedures. • Maintaining cleanliness and organisation of sorting areas. • Meeting production targets and throughput requirements. • Coordinating with washroom and production teams to maintain workflow continuity. • Contributing to continuous improvement in sorting accuracy and efficiency.
Specialisation	Soil sorting systems, infection control handling, contamination management, batch preparation, workflow coordination.

Application in other TCF sectors	- Commercial laundry and linen services supporting large-scale sorting and contamination control processes. - Textile manufacturing and finishing supporting material segregation and preparation activities. - Apparel production and garment finishing supporting sorting and preparation of garments for processing. - Technical textile and specialty services supporting handling of specialised or contaminated materials. - Textile restoration services supporting segregation and preparation of damaged textiles. - Leather and suede processing supporting material sorting and preparation workflows. - Manufacturing and processing industries supporting material sorting, segregation and workflow preparation.
----------------------------------	--

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	- Receiving soiled linen and preparing for sorting. - Sorting items by fabric type, colour and soil level. - Identifying and isolating contaminated or hazardous items. - Segregating linen for correct wash processes and batch formation. - Preparing and transferring sorted loads to washroom operations. - Maintaining batch identification and tracking systems. - Cleaning and organising sorting work areas. - Following workplace health, safety and infection control procedures.
Critical work functions	- Ensuring correct segregation to maintain hygiene and prevent cross-contamination. - Maintaining accuracy in sorting to support effective wash outcomes. - Identifying hazardous or high-risk items and applying controls. - Supporting efficient workflow into washroom operations. - Ensuring compliance with safety and infection control standards. - Coordinating with production teams to maintain throughput.

3. Technical skills

Garment and linen sorting	Sorting linen based on fabric type, colour and contamination level.
Contamination handling	Identifying and managing contaminated or hazardous items safely.
Batch preparation	Preparing linen loads for efficient washing processes.
Tracking systems	Maintaining identification and tracking of sorted batches.
Textile knowledge	Understanding linen types and processing requirements.
Workstation organisation	Maintaining clean and efficient sorting areas.
Infection control procedures	Applying hygiene and contamination control practices.

4. Generic Skills

Attention to detail	Ensuring accuracy in sorting and segregation.
Teamwork	Working collaboratively with washroom and production teams.
Communication	Communicating sorting issues and hazards to team members.
Time management	Maintaining pace to meet production throughput.
Problem solving	Addressing sorting discrepancies and workflow issues.
Adaptability	Handling varying linen types and contamination levels.
Safety awareness	Applying safe handling and infection control practices.

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	• Adopting automated sorting and conveyor systems. • Using radio frequency identification (RFID) and digital tracking in sorting processes. • Applying enhanced infection control and biohazard handling practices. • Supporting data-driven workflow optimisation. • Integrating sorting operations with digital production systems. • Enhancing sustainability through improved sorting accuracy and waste reduction.
-----------------	--

6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

Entry-level preparation	MSTSS00004 Introduction to Laundry or Dry Cleaning Industry Skill Set.
Advanced development	MST20422 Certificate II in Laundry Operations.

7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Soil Sort Worker → Senior Laundry Worker → Team Leader → Production Supervisor → Operations Manager.
--------------------------	--

8. Classification

Australian Qualifications Framework	AQF Level 2.
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.