

SSTRR03 Textile Recycling 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	Textile Recycling and Remanufacturing
Functional area	Textile Recycling Operations
Job role	SSTRR03 Textile Recycling Operator
Job role description	Undertakes the recovery and processing of post-consumer and post-industrial textile waste. Performs activities including receiving, sorting, grading, cleaning, de-branding, material separation, fibre recovery, shredding and operating recycling equipment to produce secondary raw materials. The role ensures recovered materials meet quality, safety and traceability requirements while supporting efficient resource recovery and circular economy outcomes. Works closely with Textile Recycling Team Leaders, Maintenance Technicians and Quality personnel.
Performance expectations	• Operate recycling equipment safely and efficiently. • Achieve material recovery and production targets. • Maximise recovery while minimising contamination and waste. • Maintain consistent material quality. • Follow production, traceability and quality procedures. • Maintain accurate production records. • Comply with WHS and environmental requirements.
Specialisation	Textile sorting, grading, de-branding, material recovery, fibre recovery, shredding and recycling operations.
Application in other TCF sectors	Waste management, plastics recycling, paper recycling, fibre recovery, resource recovery and manufacturing operations.

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	• Receive and inspect textile waste. • Sort and grade textile materials. • Remove contaminants, trims and branded components. • Separate materials by fibre type and composition. • Operate cleaning, shredding and recycling equipment. • Monitor equipment performance and material quality.
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	• Maintain production and traceability records. • Undertake routine cleaning and minor equipment maintenance. • Follow operational, quality, safety and environmental procedures.
Critical work functions	• Maximise recovery of reusable materials. • Prevent contamination of recovered material streams. • Produce secondary raw materials meeting specifications. • Maintain efficient material flow. • Support safe operation of recycling equipment. • Maintain traceability and documentation.

3. Technical skills

Material identification	Recognising textile fibres, fabrics and components.
Sorting and grading	Classifying materials for recovery and recycling.
Material separation	Separating materials by fibre type and composition.
Recycling equipment	Operating shredding, cleaning and recycling equipment.
Quality assessment	Inspecting recovered materials against specifications.
Equipment maintenance	Performing routine cleaning and minor maintenance.
Data recording	Maintaining production and traceability records.
Safety practices	Applying WHS and environmental procedures.

4. Generic Skills

Attention to detail	Maintaining material quality and preventing contamination.
Observation skills	Monitoring equipment and material flow.
Communication	Working effectively with supervisors and team members.
Problem solving	Identifying and responding to processing issues.
Teamwork	Supporting integrated recycling operations.
Time management	Maintaining production targets.
Adaptability	Responding to variable material inputs.
Reliability	Maintaining consistent operational performance.

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	• Automated and AI-assisted sorting systems. • Digital production monitoring. • Advanced fibre recovery technologies. • Automated material identification. • Digital traceability systems.
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	• Circular economy practices.
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6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

Entry-level preparation	MSM20216 Certificate II in Manufacturing Technology.
Advanced development	MSA30208 Certificate III in Manufacturing Technology.

7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Processing Assistant → Textile Recycling Operator → Senior Operator → Textile Recycling Team Leader → Production Manager.
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8. Classification

Australian Qualifications Framework	Level 2.
Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Skill Levels	Skill Level 4.
Open Source Classification of Occupations for Australia (OSCA)	731999 Factory Process Worker (closest operational classification).



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