

SSWOL01 Scour Plant 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	Wool Scouring
Functional area	Production Operations
Job role	SSWOL01 Scour Plant Operator
Job role description	Operates and monitors wool scouring plant systems to remove grease, dirt and contaminants from raw wool, producing clean fibre suitable for downstream processing. In the Australian wool scouring sector—characterised by high mechanisation and continuous processing—the Scour Plant Operator oversees the end-to-end scouring line, including feeding, washing, rinsing, drying and material handling stages. The role requires managing process parameters such as temperature, chemical dosing, water flow and line speed to ensure consistent fibre quality. The operator typically works in a single-operator or small team environment and coordinates closely with maintenance, quality and logistics functions to maintain continuous production flow and compliance with environmental requirements.
Performance expectations	- Producing scoured wool that meets quality and cleanliness specifications. - Maintaining stable process conditions across washing and drying stages. - Operating plant safely and efficiently. - Minimising fibre loss, contamination and waste. - Monitoring plant performance and responding to process variations. - Maintaining continuous production flow. - Recording production and process data accurately. - Following WHS, environmental and operational procedures.

Specialisation	Continuous scouring lines, multi-stage washing systems, drying systems, grease recovery processes, automated plant control systems.
Application in other TCF sectors	• Textile fibre processing. • Food and agricultural processing industries. • Chemical and water treatment operations. • Industrial washing and separation processes. • Recycling and materials recovery operations.

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	• Feeding raw wool into the scouring line. • Monitoring washing, rinsing and drying stages. • Adjusting temperature, chemical dosing and flow rates. • Inspecting wool quality throughout processing. • Removing contaminants and managing waste streams. • Recording production and process data. • Coordinating with maintenance and support teams. • Cleaning and maintaining plant equipment.
Critical work functions	• Ensuring effective removal of contaminants from wool. • Maintaining consistent fibre quality and yield. • Preventing process instability and equipment issues. • Supporting efficient water and chemical usage. • Maintaining environmental compliance (effluent control). • Ensuring safe operation of plant and equipment. • Supporting downstream processing requirements.

3. Technical skills

Scouring plant operation	Operating multi-stage wool washing and drying systems.
Process control	Managing temperature, flow rates and chemical dosing.
Material handling	Feeding and managing wool through the plant.
Quality monitoring	Assessing fibre cleanliness and condition.
Equipment monitoring	Observing plant performance and identifying issues.
Basic troubleshooting	Responding to process and mechanical faults.
Environmental management	Managing effluent and waste streams.
Production documentation	Recording process and output data.

4. Generic Skills

Attention to detail	Ensuring consistent fibre quality.
Problem solving	Responding to process issues.
Time management	Maintaining continuous production flow.

Technical aptitude	Working with automated plant systems.
Communication	Coordinating with maintenance and logistics.
Teamwork	Working in small or single-operator environments.
Safety awareness	Applying WHS and environmental procedures.

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	- Automated process control and supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) systems. - Water and chemical efficiency optimisation. - Environmental compliance and sustainability practices. - Data-driven process monitoring and analytics. - Integration with digital production systems. - Advanced fibre processing technologies.
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6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

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

7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Process Worker → Scour Plant Operator → Senior Operator → Production Supervisor → Plant 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)	731432 Textile or Footwear Production Machine Operator.



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