

SSWOL03 Carding / Combing 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	Wool Scouring
Functional area	Production Operations
Job role	SSWOL03 Carding / Combing Technician
Job role description	Operates and monitors carding and combing equipment to align, clean and prepare scoured wool fibres for downstream processing such as spinning or further textile manufacturing. In the Australian wool scouring sector—characterised by high mechanisation and integrated processing—the Carding / Combing Technician plays a critical role in fibre preparation. The role ensures fibres are disentangled, aligned and refined to meet quality and processing requirements. The technician works closely with scouring operations, quality and maintenance teams to maintain fibre consistency, optimise machine performance and support continuous production flow.
Performance expectations	- Producing fibre sliver that meets alignment and cleanliness specifications. - Maintaining stable carding and combing process conditions. - Operating machinery safely and efficiently. - Minimising fibre loss, neps (small fibre entanglements) and defects. - Monitoring equipment performance and responding to issues. - Maintaining continuous production flow. - Recording production and quality data accurately. - Following WHS and operational procedures.
Specialisation	Carding systems, combing systems, fibre alignment, sliver production, automated fibre preparation lines.
Application in other TCF sectors	- Textile fibre processing and spinning preparation. - Cotton and synthetic fibre processing. - Nonwoven and technical textile production.

	• Recycling and fibre reprocessing industries. • General mechanical fibre preparation processes.
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2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	• Feeding scoured wool into carding machines. • Operating and monitoring carding and combing equipment. • Adjusting machine settings (speed, tension, alignment). • Inspecting fibre output for quality and consistency. • Removing waste and short fibres. • Recording production and machine performance data. • Cleaning and maintaining equipment. • Coordinating with upstream and downstream processes.
Critical work functions	• Ensuring consistent fibre alignment and quality. • Maintaining stable machine operation. • Minimising fibre loss and defects. • Supporting efficient downstream processing. • Preventing equipment issues and downtime. • Maintaining safe operation of machinery. • Supporting overall production efficiency.

3. Technical skills

Carding machine operation	Operating fibre carding systems.
Combing process operation	Managing combing equipment and settings.
Fibre quality assessment	Evaluating sliver consistency and cleanliness.
Process control	Adjusting speed, tension and feed rates.
Material handling	Feeding and managing fibre flow.
Equipment monitoring	Observing performance and detecting issues.
Basic troubleshooting	Resolving minor mechanical/process issues.
Production documentation	Recording output and machine data.

4. Generic Skills

Attention to detail	Ensuring fibre quality and consistency.
Problem solving	Responding to process and equipment issues.
Time management	Maintaining continuous production flow.
Technical aptitude	Working with mechanised fibre systems.
Communication	Coordinating with production and maintenance teams.
Teamwork	Working in small, integrated teams.

Safety awareness	Applying WHS procedures in machinery environments.
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5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	- Automated fibre processing and monitoring systems. - Data-driven quality control and analytics. - Integration with supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) and digital production systems. - Advanced fibre preparation technologies. - Sustainability and fibre recovery optimisation. - Predictive maintenance for processing equipment.
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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	Process Worker → Carding / Combing Technician → Senior Technician → 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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