

SSWOL04 Materials Handling 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	SSWOL04 Materials Handling Operator
Job role description	Manages the movement, storage and handling of raw wool, processed fibre and by-products within wool scouring operations to support continuous production flow. In the Australian wool scouring sector—characterised by high mechanisation and streamlined operations—the Materials Handling Operator plays a critical role in ensuring that materials are delivered to and removed from processing stages efficiently and safely. The role supports plant operators by maintaining uninterrupted material flow across scouring, drying and fibre preparation stages. The operator works closely with production, logistics and maintenance teams to ensure correct handling, storage and traceability of materials in a fast-paced industrial environment.
Performance expectations	• Ensuring continuous supply of raw wool to processing lines. • Safely handling and transporting materials and fibre products. • Maintaining accurate stock control and traceability. • Minimising material loss, contamination and damage. • Operating handling equipment efficiently and safely. • Supporting production flow and plant efficiency. • Maintaining clean and organised storage areas. • Following WHS and operational procedures.
Specialisation	Forklift operation, bulk fibre handling, bale handling, conveyor systems, automated material handling systems.
Application in other TCF sectors	• Textile and fibre processing industries. • Manufacturing and process industries. • Warehousing and logistics operations. • Agricultural product handling.

	Recycling and materials recovery sectors.
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2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	- Transporting raw wool to processing lines. - Moving processed fibre between production stages. - Loading and unloading bales and materials. - Operating forklifts and handling equipment. - Managing storage and staging areas. - Recording inventory and material movements. - Inspecting materials for damage or contamination. - Maintaining cleanliness in handling areas.
Critical work functions	- Ensuring uninterrupted material flow to production. - Maintaining material integrity and quality. - Preventing stock loss and handling damage. - Supporting efficient plant operation. - Maintaining traceability and documentation. - Ensuring safe operation of handling equipment. - Coordinating with production and logistics teams.

3. Technical skills

Material handling	Handling raw wool and processed fibre safely.
Forklift operation	Operating forklifts and lifting equipment.
Inventory control	Tracking and recording material movement.
Storage management	Organising and maintaining storage areas.
Equipment operation	Using conveyors and handling systems.
Quality awareness	Identifying contamination or damage.
Basic documentation	Recording stock and movement data.
Safety procedures	Applying safe handling and WHS practices.

4. Generic Skills

Attention to detail	Ensuring accurate handling and storage.
Problem solving	Resolving material flow issues.
Time management	Maintaining efficient workflow.
Communication	Coordinating with production teams.
Teamwork	Working across production and logistics.
Physical capability	Performing manual handling tasks.

Safety awareness	Applying WHS procedures consistently.
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5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	- Automated material handling systems. - Digital inventory and tracking systems. - Integration with production control systems. - Data-driven logistics optimisation. - Sustainable material handling practices. - Advanced lifting and ergonomic systems.
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6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

Entry-level preparation	Completion of training and, if required, licence for mobile plant and material handling equipment to move, stage and feed cotton modules. Forklift operators are required to hold TLILIC0003 Licence to operate a forklift truck.
Advanced development	MSM20116 Certificate II in Process Manufacturing or equivalent.

7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Process Worker → Wool Presser / Baler → Senior Operator → Logistics or Production Supervisor.
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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)	741331 Forklift Driver.



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