

SSWOL05 Wool Presser / Baler

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	SSWOL05 Wool Presser / Baler
Job role description	Compresses, packs and prepares scoured and processed wool into bales for storage, transport and sale, ensuring correct weight, density and labelling. In the Australian wool scouring sector—characterised by high mechanisation and export-oriented production—the Wool Presser / Baler plays a critical role in preparing fibre for downstream logistics and market distribution. The role ensures that processed wool is compacted efficiently and meets industry and customer specifications. The operator works closely with production, quality and logistics functions to ensure bale integrity, traceability and compliance with handling and export requirements.
Performance expectations	- Producing bales that meet weight, density and quality specifications. - Operating pressing and baling equipment safely and efficiently. - Ensuring correct labelling and traceability of bales. - Minimising fibre loss and contamination during handling. - Maintaining consistent bale quality and presentation. - Supporting efficient storage and transport processes. - Recording production and bale data accurately. - Following WHS and operational procedures.
Specialisation	Hydraulic baling systems, fibre compression, bale labelling and traceability systems, export preparation.
Application in other TCF sectors	- Agricultural product packaging and baling. - Textile fibre packaging industries. - Recycling and materials compaction operations.

	- Logistics and export packaging sectors. - General manufacturing packaging operations.
--	--

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	- Operating wool pressing and baling machines. - Loading processed fibre into balers. - Compressing wool into standardised bales. - Securing and wrapping bales. - Labelling and recording bale details. - Weighing and verifying bale specifications. - Moving bales to storage or dispatch areas. - Maintaining cleanliness and equipment condition.
Critical work functions	- Ensuring bale quality, density and consistency. - Maintaining accurate identification and traceability. - Preventing contamination and fibre loss. - Supporting efficient downstream logistics and export. - Ensuring safe operation of pressing equipment. - Maintaining production flow from processing to dispatch. - Supporting compliance with customer and export requirements.

3. Technical skills

Baling equipment operation	Operating hydraulic presses and balers.
Material handling	Handling processed wool safely.
Weighing and measurement	Ensuring correct bale weight and density.
Labelling and traceability	Applying identification and tracking systems.
Quality inspection	Checking bale integrity and fibre condition.
Equipment monitoring	Observing performance and detecting issues.
Basic troubleshooting	Resolving minor equipment issues.
Production documentation	Recording bale and production data.

4. Generic Skills

Attention to detail	Ensuring accuracy in bale specifications and labelling.
Problem solving	Addressing equipment or quality issues.
Time management	Maintaining production flow and dispatch schedules.
Communication	Coordinating with production and logistics teams.
Teamwork	Working across operational areas.
Physical capability	Handling materials and operating equipment.

Safety awareness	Applying WHS procedures in mechanical environments.
------------------	---

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	- Automated baling and packaging systems. - Digital traceability and tracking technologies. - Integration with logistics and export systems. - Data-driven production monitoring. - Sustainable packaging practices. - Advanced material handling technologies.
-----------------	--

6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

Entry-level preparation	Unit of competency - AHCWOL207 Carry out wool pressing.
Advanced development	AHC21425 Certificate II in Wool Handling or equivalent.

7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Process Worker → Wool Presser / Baler → Senior Operator → Logistics or Production Supervisor.
--------------------------	---

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)	732999 Stationary Plant Operator nec.



Skills Insight is a Jobs and Skills Council funded by the Australian Government Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.