

SSLPR21 Leather Goods Maker

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	Leather Goods Manufacturing
Functional area	Leather Goods Production
Job role	SSLPR21 Leather Goods Maker
Job role description	Performs end-to-end construction of leather goods including cutting, skiving, preparation, stitching, assembly, hardware installation, edge finishing and final finishing. Produces high-quality leather products to specification in accordance with production and quality standards.
Performance expectations	• Meet daily production output targets. • Maintain high workmanship and finish standards. • Follow patterns and technical specifications accurately. • Minimise material waste and rework. • Operate machinery safely and efficiently. • Contribute to team productivity and quality outcomes.
Specialisation	• Cutting and material preparation specialist. • Stitching and assembly specialist. • Edge finishing and detailing specialist. • High-end handcrafted production.
Application in other TCF sectors	Transferable to skilled production roles in footwear, saddlery, apparel accessories and other sewn product manufacturing sectors.

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	• Cut leather components according to patterns. • Skive and prepare materials for assembly. • Operate stitching machines and hand-stitch where required. • Assemble components and install hardware. • Apply edge finishing techniques and treatments. • Inspect finished products for quality compliance. • Maintain tools, machinery and workstations.
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Critical work functions	• Accuracy in cutting and pattern alignment. • Consistency in stitching quality. • Secure and precise hardware installation. • Professional edge finishing and final presentation. • Adherence to quality standards and specifications. • Safe operation of machinery and equipment.
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3. Technical skills

Cutting techniques	Use manual and machine cutting methods accurately.
Skiving and preparation	Thin and prepare leather edges for construction.
Industrial sewing machine operation	Operate flat-bed, post-bed or cylinder-arm machines.
Assembly and hardware installation	Attach rivets, buckles, zips and fittings securely.
Edge finishing methods	Apply burnishing, painting and sealing techniques.
Material knowledge	Understand leather types, finishes and behaviour.
Quality inspection	Assess finished goods against specifications.
Tool maintenance	Maintain knives, machines and hand tools safely.

4. Generic Skills

Attention to detail	Ensure accuracy in cutting, stitching and finishing.
Manual dexterity	Handle materials and tools with precision.
Time management	Maintain productivity within production timelines.
Teamwork	Work collaboratively within production teams.
Problem solving	Identify and correct minor defects or construction issues.
Workplace safety awareness	Follow WHS procedures consistently.

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	• Use of automated cutting systems. • Digital production tracking systems. • Sustainable material utilisation practices. • Advanced finishing technologies. • Integration with lean manufacturing processes.
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6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

Entry-level preparation	MST30519 Certificate III in Leather Production or equivalent.
Advanced development	MST40122 Certificate IV in Textile Design and Technology or equivalent.

7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Leather Goods Maker → Senior Maker → Supervisor / Team Leader → Production Manager.
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8. Classification

Australian Qualifications Framework	AQF Level 3.
Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Skill Levels	Skill Level 3.
Open Source Classification of Occupations for Australia (OSCA)	399435 Leather Goods Maker.



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