

SSLPR22 Saddler

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	Saddle Production
Job role	SSLPR22 Saddler
Job role description	Constructs, repairs and maintains saddles and related equestrian leather products. Performs cutting, shaping, stitching, assembly, fitting and finishing to high standards of durability, safety and craftsmanship.
Performance expectations	- Produce saddlery products meeting durability and safety standards. - Maintain high craftsmanship and finish. - Ensure accurate saddle fit and balance. - Minimise material waste and rework. - Comply with WHS and quality procedures. - Meet custom and production deadlines.
Specialisation	- Custom saddle making. - Saddle repair and restoration. - Equestrian equipment production. - Traditional handcrafted saddlery.
Application in other TCF sectors	Transferable to specialist leather craft, harness making and high-value leather goods production.

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	- Cut and shape leather components. - Prepare and fit saddle trees. - Hand stitch and machine stitch components. - Assemble saddle parts and install fittings. - Fit saddles to horses and adjust balance. - Apply finishing and edge treatments. - Repair and refurbish saddlery.
Critical work functions	- Structural integrity and rider safety. - Precision in measurement and fitting.

	• Durability and performance. • Quality stitching and hardware installation. • Professional presentation and finish. • Compliance with equestrian standards.
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3. Technical skills

Leather cutting and shaping	Accurately cut, mould and form leather components.
Tree preparation and fitting	Prepare and position saddle trees correctly.
Hand stitching techniques	Apply traditional hand-sewn methods.
Machine stitching	Operate industrial sewing equipment.
Fitting and adjustment	Assess and refine saddle fit.
Hardware installation	Attach stirrup bars, buckles and fittings securely.
Edge finishing	Apply burnishing, sealing and polishing.
Repair techniques	Restore worn or damaged saddlery.

4. Generic Skills

Attention to detail	Ensure precision in all measurements and finishing.
Manual dexterity	Handle tools and materials skilfully.
Problem solving	Resolve fitting and construction challenges.
Communication	Consult with customers regarding saddle requirements.
Time management	Meet custom order and production deadlines.
Craftsmanship ethic	Maintain pride in quality workmanship.

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	• Digital saddle design tools. • Laser cutting. • Advanced composite materials integration. • Data-supported saddle fitting technologies. • Sustainable leather sourcing. • Lean workshop practices.
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6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

Entry-level preparation	MST30519 Certificate III in Leather Production.
Advanced development	No qualification.

7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Apprentice Saddler → Saddler → Senior Saddler → Workshop Supervisor → 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 OSCA Specialisation Saddler.



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