

SSLPR23 Saddle Assembler

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	SSLPR23 Saddle Assembler
Job role description	Assembles saddle components into completed saddles in accordance with technical specifications. Works with prepared leather parts, trees, panels and hardware to ensure structural integrity, balance and finish quality.
Performance expectations	• Achieve daily production targets. • Maintain structural accuracy and alignment. • Ensure safe and secure hardware installation. • Maintain high standards of workmanship. • Minimise rework and material waste. • Comply with WHS and quality procedures.
Specialisation	• Western saddle assembly. • English saddle assembly. • Panel and seat assembly specialist. • Hardware installation specialist.
Application in other TCF sectors	Transferable to complex product assembly roles in leather goods, harness making and structured sewn products.

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	• Assemble saddle trees, panels and seats. • Attach skirts, flaps and structural components. • Install hardware including stirrup bars and fittings. • Align and secure stitching and fastening points. • Inspect structural balance and symmetry. • Prepare saddle for finishing and quality inspection.
Critical work functions	• Precision alignment and balance. • Secure hardware installation. • Inspection of assembled components. • Adherence to technical specifications.

	Consistent quality and finish.
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3. Technical skills

Component assembly	Assemble saddle components accurately and securely.
Hardware installation	Install stirrup bars, buckles and fittings safely.
Machine stitching	Operate industrial sewing equipment.
Measurement and alignment	Ensure correct balance and symmetry.
Material handling	Handle structured leather components appropriately.
Quality inspection	Identify defects and structural issues.
Tool operation	Use hand tools and assembly equipment.
Safety compliance	Apply WHS procedures in workshop settings.

4. Generic Skills

Attention to detail	Ensure precise assembly and alignment.
Manual dexterity	Handle components and tools skilfully.
Teamwork	Collaborate with cutters, stitchers and finishers.
Problem solving	Address alignment or fit issues during assembly.
Time management	Maintain assembly output within timelines.
Quality focus	Commitment to product safety and durability.

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	- Digital production tracking systems. - Advanced composite saddle materials. - Lean assembly processes. - Sustainability and waste reduction practices. - Automation-assisted hardware installation.
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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	Saddle Assembler → Senior Assembler → Saddler → Production Supervisor → Production Manager.
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8. Classification

Australian Qualifications Framework	AQF Level 3.
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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.



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