

SSLPR24 Saddler – Apprentice / Trainee

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	SSLPR24 Saddler – Apprentice / Trainee
Job role description	Undertakes structured workplace training in saddle construction and repair under supervision. Develops foundational skills in leather preparation, stitching, assembly, fitting and finishing while working towards trade competency.
Performance expectations	- Develop foundational saddlery skills progressively. - Follow instructions and technical specifications accurately. - Demonstrate safe workshop practices. - Maintain quality standards in assigned tasks. - Meet learning and productivity milestones. - Respond positively to supervision and feedback.
Specialisation	- General saddlery training pathway. - Custom saddle making pathway. - Saddle repair and restoration pathway. - Equestrian equipment production pathway.
Application in other TCF sectors	Provides foundational trade skills transferable to leather goods manufacturing and related craft-based production sectors.

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	- Assist with cutting and shaping leather components. - Prepare materials and saddle trees under supervision. - Perform basic hand stitching and machine stitching. - Support assembly of saddle components. - Apply basic edge finishing techniques. - Maintain tools and workshop cleanliness.
Critical work functions	- Adherence to safety procedures. - Accuracy in basic measurements and cuts. - Development of manual dexterity and craftsmanship. - Understanding of structural saddle components.

	Commitment to quality and continuous improvement.
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3. Technical skills

Basic leather cutting	Perform supervised cutting and shaping tasks.
Hand stitching fundamentals	Apply foundational hand sewing techniques.
Machine operation basics	Operate sewing equipment under supervision.
Material preparation	Prepare leather and components for assembly.
Tool maintenance	Maintain hand tools and workshop equipment.
Hardware preparation	Assist in fitting and securing saddle hardware.
Quality awareness	Recognise basic defects and report issues.
Workplace safety	Apply WHS principles consistently.

4. Generic Skills

Willingness to learn	Demonstrate commitment to skill development.
Attention to detail	Develop accuracy in measurement and finishing.
Manual dexterity	Build coordination and control with tools.
Communication	Ask questions and respond to guidance.
Teamwork	Work cooperatively within workshop teams.
Time management	Balance training requirements and production tasks.

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	- Exposure to digital saddle design tools. - Awareness of sustainable leather practices. - Introduction to lean workshop principles. - Understanding of advanced composite materials.
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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 → Qualified Saddler → Senior Saddler → Workshop Supervisor → Production Manager.
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8. Classification

Australian Qualifications Framework	AQF Level 3 (upon completion of apprenticeship).
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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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