

SSLPR25 Saddle Repairer

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	SSLPR25 Saddle Repairer
Job role description	Diagnoses, repairs and restores saddles and equestrian leather products. Performs structural repairs, component replacement, stitching restoration and refinishing to ensure safety, durability and performance.
Performance expectations	- Restore saddles to safe and functional condition. - Maintain structural integrity and balance. - Deliver high-quality repair workmanship. - Accurately diagnose defects and wear. - Meet customer turnaround expectations. - Comply with WHS and quality standards.
Specialisation	- Saddle structural repair. - Panel and flocking restoration. - Hardware replacement and reinforcement. - Vintage and heritage saddle restoration.
Application in other TCF sectors	Transferable to leather goods repair, restoration and refurbishment roles across high-value leather products.

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	- Inspect and diagnose saddle damage. - Disassemble damaged components. - Repair or replace leather panels and parts. - Restitch seams and reinforce stress points. - Replace hardware and fittings. - Refinish surfaces and apply edge treatments. - Reassemble and test structural balance.
Critical work functions	- Structural safety and integrity. - Precision in repair alignment. - Durability of restored components.

	- Secure hardware installation. - High standard of finish. - Customer satisfaction and reliability.
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3. Technical skills

Damage assessment	Diagnose structural and material defects.
Leather repair techniques	Apply patching, reinforcement and panel replacement.
Hand stitching restoration	Restore seams using traditional techniques.
Machine stitching	Operate sewing equipment for repairs.
Hardware replacement	Install new fittings securely.
Refinishing methods	Clean, dye and finish repaired leather.
Panel and flocking repair	Restore internal saddle padding and panels.
Tool and equipment maintenance	Maintain repair tools and workshop equipment.

4. Generic Skills

Attention to detail	Ensure accurate diagnosis and precise repairs.
Problem solving	Identify appropriate repair solutions.
Customer communication	Explain repair scope and outcomes clearly.
Manual dexterity	Perform fine stitching and finishing tasks.
Time management	Manage multiple repair jobs effectively.
Quality focus	Commitment to safety and durability standards.

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	- Advanced restoration techniques. - Sustainable refurbishment practices. - Digital repair documentation systems. - Use of composite reinforcement materials. - Lean workshop repair processes.
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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 Repairer → Senior Repair Specialist → Saddler.
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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.



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