

SSLPR27 Harness and Tack 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	Saddle Production
Job role	SSLPR27 Harness and Tack Maker
Job role description	Designs, constructs, repairs and maintains harnesses, bridles, reins and other equestrian tack. Performs cutting, stitching, assembly, hardware installation and finishing to ensure strength, durability and rider safety.
Performance expectations	- Produce tack meeting strength and durability standards. - Ensure safe and secure hardware installation. - Maintain high craftsmanship and finish quality. - Accurately interpret patterns and specifications. - Minimise material waste and rework. - Comply with WHS and quality standards.
Specialisation	- Traditional harness making. - Competition and performance tack. - Custom bridle and rein production. - Restoration of heritage harness equipment.
Application in other TCF sectors	Transferable to specialist leather goods production, restoration and high-value handcrafted manufacturing.

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	- Cut leather components to specification. - Prepare and edge finish straps and components. - Stitch and assemble harness and tack parts. - Install buckles, rings and fittings securely. - Test strength and structural integrity. - Repair and refurbish worn tack items. - Inspect finished products for safety compliance.
Critical work functions	- Structural strength and durability of products. - Secure hardware attachment. - Precision measurement and alignment.

	• High-quality stitching and finish. • Compliance with equestrian safety standards. • Consistency in product quality.
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3. Technical skills

Leather cutting and strap work	Accurately cut and shape leather straps.
Hand and machine stitching	Apply durable stitching techniques.
Hardware installation	Attach buckles, rings and fittings securely.
Edge finishing	Burnish and seal edges professionally.
Pattern interpretation	Read and apply tack design specifications.
Repair techniques	Restore damaged harness and tack.
Material knowledge	Select appropriate leather types for strength.
Quality inspection	Assess structural integrity and safety.

4. Generic Skills

Attention to detail	Ensure precision in strap length and alignment.
Manual dexterity	Handle tools and materials skilfully.
Problem solving	Address structural or fit issues.
Communication	Consult with customers regarding tack requirements.
Time management	Meet custom and production deadlines.
Quality focus	Commitment to strength and safety standards.

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	• Advanced composite and synthetic materials. • Sustainable leather sourcing practices. • Digital design templates for custom tack. • Lean workshop production systems. • Enhanced safety compliance standards.
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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	Harness and Tack Maker → Senior Maker → 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.



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