

SSLPR28 Apprentice Leather Goods 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	Leather Goods Production
Job role	SSLPR28 Apprentice Leather Goods Maker
Job role description	Develops the practical skills required to construct leather goods under the direction and supervision of a qualified leather goods maker or experienced production worker. Assists with and progressively performs cutting, skiving, preparation, stitching, assembly, hardware installation, edge finishing and final finishing tasks while completing structured workplace and off-the-job training.
Performance expectations	- Follow workplace instructions, patterns and technical specifications. - Complete assigned production tasks to the required stage of training. - Develop accuracy, consistency and workmanship under supervision. - Use materials, tools and machinery safely and responsibly. - Minimise material waste, damage and avoidable rework. - Seek guidance, respond to feedback and demonstrate progressive skill development.
Specialisation	- Progressive exposure to cutting and material preparation. - Progressive exposure to stitching and assembly. - Progressive exposure to edge finishing and detailing. - Development of handcraft and machine production techniques.
Application in other TCF sectors	Provides a training pathway to production roles in footwear, saddlery, apparel accessories and other sewn product manufacturing sectors.

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	• Assist with and progressively cut leather components according to patterns. • Prepare and skive materials under instruction. • Operate stitching machines and practise hand-stitching under supervision. • Assist with component assembly and hardware installation. • Apply basic edge finishing techniques and treatments. • Check own work and identify visible defects. • Clean and maintain tools, machinery and workstations. • Complete workplace and off-the-job training activities.
Critical work functions	• Following instructions, patterns and safe work procedures. • Developing accuracy in cutting and pattern alignment. • Developing consistent stitching and assembly techniques. • Installing hardware securely under supervision. • Producing acceptable edge finishes and product presentation. • Recognising defects and seeking assistance when required. • Demonstrating progressive competence across the apprenticeship.

3. Technical skills

Basic cutting techniques	Use manual and machine cutting methods under supervision and progressively improve accuracy.
Skiving and preparation	Prepare and thin leather edges using approved methods under instruction.
Industrial sewing machine operation	Set up and operate flat-bed, post-bed or cylinder-arm machines for assigned tasks under supervision.
Assembly and hardware installation	Assist with and progressively attach rivets, buckles, zips and fittings securely.
Edge finishing methods	Apply basic burnishing, painting and sealing techniques to specified standards.
Material knowledge	Identify common leather types, finishes, defects and handling requirements.
Quality checking	Check completed work against patterns, samples and instructions and report defects.
Tool and equipment care	Clean, store and carry out basic maintenance of knives, machines and hand tools safely.
Workplace learning	Apply feedback, record training progress and practise new techniques under supervision.

4. Generic Skills

Attention to detail	Develop accuracy in cutting, stitching, assembly and finishing.
Manual dexterity	Handle materials, tools and components carefully and with increasing precision.
Learning and adaptability	Follow demonstrations, practise new techniques and apply feedback.
Time management	Complete assigned tasks within agreed training and production timeframes.

Teamwork	Work cooperatively with supervisors, trainers and production team members.
Communication	Ask questions, confirm instructions and report problems promptly.
Problem solving	Recognise basic defects or construction issues and seek guidance on corrective action.
Workplace safety awareness	Follow WHS procedures and use personal protective equipment consistently.

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	• Introductory use of automated cutting systems. • Use of digital work instructions and production tracking systems. • Sustainable material handling and waste minimisation practices. • Exposure to advanced finishing technologies. • Participation in lean manufacturing and continuous improvement activities.
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6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

Entry-level preparation	Employment as an apprentice and enrolment in MST30519 Certificate III in Leather Production or an equivalent approved apprenticeship pathway.
Advanced development	Completion of the apprenticeship and Certificate III qualification, followed by workplace experience and possible progression to MST40122 Certificate IV in Textile Design and Technology or equivalent.

7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Apprentice Leather Goods Maker → Qualified Leather Goods Maker → Senior Maker → Supervisor / Team Leader → Production Manager.
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8. Classification

Australian Qualifications Framework	Training toward AQF Level 3.
Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Skill Levels	Developing toward Skill Level 3 on completion of the apprenticeship.
Open Source Classification of Occupations for Australia (OSCA)	Apprentice Leather Goods Maker - Manufacturing context.



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