



International Labour Organization  
Organisation internationale du Travail  
Organización Internacional del Trabajo

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*Updating the  
International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO)*

*Draft ISCO-08 Group Definitions:  
Occupations in Textiles and Clothing*

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## **ISCO-08 Draft Definitions – Textile & Clothing**

### **ISCO 08 Code**

**753**

### **Title EN**

**Textile, garment and related trades workers**

Textile, garment and related trades workers fit, alter and repair tailored clothing; design, and make textile and fur garments, leather or fur products; repair, renovate and decorate garments, gloves and other products of textile; create patterns for garments; install, repair and replace upholstery of furniture, fixtures, orthopaedic appliances and furnishings of automobiles; trim, scrape, tan, buff and dye animal hides, pelts or skins; modify and repair footwear and leather articles.

Tasks performed usually include: fitting, altering, repairing tailored clothing; design and make made to measure clothing, from textile fabrics, light leather and other material, or make hats or wigs; make garment style changes; creating precision master patterns for production of garments, other textile, and leather or fur products; sewing together, joining, darning, repairing, renovating and decorating garments, gloves and other products of textile, fur, light leather and other materials and fabricating and assembling sails, awnings and tarpaulins; installing, repairing and replacing upholstery of furniture, fixtures, orthopaedic appliances; seats, panels, and other furnishings of automobiles, railway coaches, aircraft, ships and similar items; trimming, scraping, cleaning, tanning, buffing and dyeing animal hides, pelts or skins to produce leather stock and finished furs for making garments and other products; making, modifying and repairing standard, custom or orthopaedic footwear and natural or synthetic leather articles.

### **Occupations in this Minor Group are classified into the following Unit Groups**

- 7531 Tailors, dressmakers, furriers and hatters
- 7532 Textile, leather and related pattern-makers and cutters
- 7533 Sewers, embroiderers and related workers
- 7534 Upholsterers and related workers
- 7535 Pelt dressers, tanners and fellmongers
- 7536 Shoemakers and related workers

### **Notes**

**ISCO 08 Code****7351****Title EN****Tailors, dressmakers, furriers and hatters****Lead statement**

Tailors, dressmakers, furriers and hatters fabricate, fit, alter and repair tailored or hand-made clothing; They produce made-to-measure clothing such as suits, overcoats, and dresses from textile fabrics, light leather, fur and other material, or make hats or wigs according to customer's and clothing manufacturer's specifications.

**Task statement**

Tasks include:

- (a) making overcoats, suits, skirts, shirts, blouses, lingerie, corsetry, hats, wigs and similar garments often to clients' individual requirements;
- (b) selecting textile fabrics, leather or fur pelts matching the desired size, colour, texture, and quality of the garment; cutting to shape them to garment pattern and arranging them on pattern according to the design of the garment;
- (c) making garment style changes, such as tapering trouser legs, narrowing lapels, and adding or removing padding;
- (d) selecting and modifying commercial patterns to customers' and clothing manufacturers' specifications and fit;
- (e) fitting, altering and repairing tailored clothing, dresses, coats and other made-to-measure garments according to customers' requests;
- (f) making and caring for costumes used in theatrical, television and motion picture productions;
- (g) folding, twisting, and draping material, such as satin or silk, or sewing ribbon or cloth in the form of artificial flowers or bows around crown and brim to shape and decorate hats;
- (h) sewing, and fastening together materials and hair strands to make wigs;
- (i) blending shades of hair to give natural appearance to wigs and arranging woven hair in specified position and sewing hair together to form hairpiece;
- (j) making, altering, restyling and repairing fur garments and other fur articles;
- (k) reclaiming furs or skins from old coats, gluing fabric to interior of fur coats and trimming fur garments.

**Included occupations**

Examples of the occupations classified here:

- Dressmaker
- Furrier
- Milliner
- Tailor

**Excluded occupations**

Some related occupations classified elsewhere:

- Textiles handicraft worker - 7332
- Sewing machine-operator - 8263"

**Notes**

**ISCO 08 Code****7532****Title EN****Textile, leather and related pattern-makers and cutters****Lead Statement**

Textile, leather and related pattern-makers and cutters create precision master patterns for production of garments, other textile, and leather or fur products. They mark, cut, shape and trim textile, light leather and other materials according to blueprints or specifications in the manufacture of garments, hats and caps, gloves and miscellaneous products.

**Task statement**

Tasks include:

- (a) creating a master pattern for each size within a range of garment sizes, using charts, drafting instruments, computers, and/or grading devices;
- (b) creating the “blueprint” or pattern pieces for a particular apparel design with the aid of a computer;
- (c) computing dimensions of patterns according to sizes, considering stretching of material;
- (d) drawing details on outlined parts to indicate where parts are to be joined, as well as the positions of pleats, pockets, buttonholes on garments, decorative stitching on shoe parts or eyelets on canvas products, using computers or drafting instruments;
- (e) positioning templates or measuring materials to locate specified points of cuts or to obtain maximum yields and mark fabric accordingly;
- (f) laying out master pattern on fabric and cutting sample pattern;
- (g) testing patterns by making and fitting sample garments;
- (h) placing patterns on top of layers of fabric and cutting fabric following patterns, using electric or manual knives, cutters or computer numerically controlled cutting devices;
- (i) cutting fabric or fur pelts to make parts for garments and other fur articles;
- (j) trimming excess material or cutting threads off finished products, such as cutting loose ends of a finished product;
- (k) positioning leather on cutting bed of machine, maximizing usage according to skin grain, skin flaws and skin stretch;
- (l) performing pattern-making, marking and cutting tasks in the manufacture of other products such as soft furnishings, canvas goods and umbrellas.

**Included occupations**

Examples of the occupations classified here:

- Cutter, garment
- Cutter, glove
- Pattern-maker, fur
- Pattern-maker, garment

**Excluded occupations**

Some related occupations classified elsewhere:

Textile pattern-making machine-operator - 8159

**Notes**

**ISCO 08 Code**

7533

**Title EN****Sewers, embroiderers and related workers****Lead Statement**

Sewers, embroiderers and related workers sew together, repair, renovate and decorate garments, gloves and other products of textile, fur, light leather and other materials and fabricate tents sails, awnings and tarpaulins. They work mainly by hand using a needle and thread but may perform some tasks using a sewing machine.

**Task statement**

Tasks include:

- (a) repairing defective or damaged portion of cloth or garment by hand, using matching thread and needle;
- (b) removing stitches from garments to be altered, using rippers or razor blades.
- (c) selecting thread according to specifications or colour of parts or dyeing thread to match colour and shade of cloth to be darned;
- (d) patching holes, sewing tears and ripped seams, or darning defects in items, using needles and thread;
- (e) pulling knots to the wrong sides of garments, using hooks;
- (f) trimming ends with scissors to make mended portion look uniform with pattern of cloth;
- (g) sewing ornamental designs by hand over stamped, printed or stencilled patterns on fabric using needle and coloured thread;
- (h) embroidering ornamental designs on cloth by hand or machine using needle and coloured threads;
- (k) softening leather or shoe material with water to prepare it for sewing
- (l) sewing or gluing decorative trimmings to articles, such as hats, caps, or millinery;
- (o) hand sewing umbrella covers to frames, tacking cover to ribs along seams and sewing corners to tip of rib and sewing ties to outside of cover to hold umbrella when folded
- (p) fabricating and assembling thick cloth, canvas and like materials into sails, awning, tarpaulins and tents.

**Included occupations**

Examples of the occupations classified here:

- Embroiderer
- Sewer
- Umbrella maker

**Excluded occupations**

Some related occupations classified elsewhere:

- Dressmaker - 7531
- Handicraft worker, textiles - 7318
- Machine-operator, sewing - 8153

**Notes**

**ISCO 08 Code****7534****Title EN****Upholsterers and related workers****Lead Statement**

Upholsterers and related workers install, repair and replace upholstery of furniture, fixtures, orthopaedic appliances; seats, panels, convertible and vinyl tops and other furnishings of automobiles, railway coaches, aircraft, ships and similar items with fabric, leather, rexine or other upholstery material. They also make and repair cushions, quilts and mattresses.

**Task statement**

Tasks include:

- (a) discussing upholstery fabric, colour, and style with customers and providing cost estimate for upholstering furniture or other items;
- (b) making upholstery patterns from sketches, customer descriptions or blueprints;
- (c) laying out, measuring and cutting upholstery materials following patterns, templates, sketches, or design specifications;
- (d) installing, arranging and securing springs, padding and covering material to furniture frames;
- (e) sewing upholstery materials by hand to seam cushions and joining sections of covering materials;
- (f) sewing rips or tears in material, or creating tufting, using needle and thread;
- (g) tacking, gluing or sewing ornamental trims, buckles, braids, buttons and other accessories to covers or frames on upholstered items;
- (h) laying out, cutting, fabricating and installing upholstery in aircrafts, motor vehicles, railway cars, boats and ships;
- (i) repairing raw hide covering of artificial limbs;
- (j) renovating antique furniture using a variety of tools including ripping chisels, magnetic hammers and long needles;
- (k) collaborating with interior designers to decorate rooms and coordinate furnishing fabrics;
- (l) making quilts, cushions and mattresses.

**Included occupations**

Examples of the occupations classified here:

- Maker, mattress
- Upholsterer, furniture
- Upholsterer, vehicle
- Upholsterer, orthopaedic

**Excluded occupations**

- Sewing machine operators

**Notes**

**ISCO 08 Code****7535****Title EN****Pelt dressers, tanners and fellmongers****Lead Statement**

Pelt dressers, tanners and fellmongers trim, scrape, clean, tan, buff and dye animal hides, pelts or skins to produce leather stock and finished furs for making garments and other products.

**Task statement**

Tasks include:

- (a) sorting and grading pelts, hides and skins according to colour, shading, size and density;
- (b) scraping particles of flesh, fat, or protective tissue from skins or pelts to clean and soften them;
- (c) removing hair from skin or hides soaked in lime water;
- (d) preparing hides by curing them with salt;
- (e) removing long, coarse hair from pelts and trimming underlying hair to even length;
- (f) tanning and dressing pelts to improve lustre and beauty or restore natural appearance of pelts;
- (g) preparing bark and myrobalan liquor for treating hides or skins;
- (h) treating hides and skins in tanning solution to convert them into leather;
- (i) tinting or dyeing furs to enhance natural shades of fur;
- (j) removing wrinkles and setting grains on wet hide or skin;
- (k) dressing and applying dyes and stains to leather;
- (l) stretching and smoothing dressed pelts;
- (m) seasoning leather by applying chemical solution or oil evenly on surface by hand brush and allowing it to dry in open air.

**Included occupations**

Examples of the occupations classified here:

- Fellmonger
- Grader, pelt
- Tanner

**Excluded occupations**

Some related occupations classified elsewhere:

- Tanning-machine operator - 8155

**Notes**

**ISCO 08 Code****7536****Title EN****Shoemakers and related workers****Lead Statement**

Shoemakers and related workers make, modify and repair standard, custom or orthopaedic footwear and natural or synthetic leather articles, such as luggage, handbags and belts, (except for leather garments, hats and gloves), or participate in the manufacture of shoes and related goods. They decorate, reinforce or finish shoes, luggage, handbags and belts.

**Task statement**

Tasks include:

- (a) making, modifying and repairing standard footwear to meet individual requirements
- (b) making, modifying and repairing orthopaedic or therapeutic footwear according to doctors' prescriptions, or modify existing footwear for people with foot problems and special needs.
- (c) repairing belts, luggage, purses and similar products;
- (d) taking plaster casts of deformed legs or foot to prepare drawings;
- (e) preparing inserts, heel pads, and lifts from casts of customers' feet;
- (f) studying drawings and other specifications to make footwear according to customer's needs;
- (g) studying work orders and/or shoe part tags to obtain information about workloads, specifications, and the types of materials to be used;
- (h) checking the texture, colour, and strength of leather to ensure that it is adequate for a particular purpose;
- (i) cutting out, shaping and padding parts for making leather articles;
- (j) sewing rips or patching holes to repair articles, such as purses, belts, shoes, and luggage;
- (k) removing and examining shoes, shoe parts, and designs to verify conformance to specifications such as proper embedding of stitches in channels;
- (l) attaching accessories or ornamentation to decorate or protect products;
- (m) making and repairing articles such as saddles and harnesses for animals, luggage, handbags, brief-cases, leather bags ,belts and other accessories.

**Included occupations**

Examples of the occupations classified here:

- Cobbler
- Saddler
- Shoe-maker
- Shoe-maker Orthopaedic

**Excluded occupations**

Some related occupations classified elsewhere:

- Furrier - 7531
- Hatter - 7531
- Machine-operator, shoe production - 8156

**Notes**

**ISCO 08 Code****815****Title EN****Textile, fur and leather products machine operators****Lead Statement**

Textile, fur and leather products machine operators operate and monitor various types of machines which prepare, process and treat fibres, yarn, thread, leather, fur; produce, modify and repair footwear, garments and manufacture or dry clean textiles or fur and light leather articles

**Task statement**

Tasks include:

- (a) operating and monitoring weaving and knitting machines which process yarn or thread into woven, non-woven and knitted products;
- (b) operating and monitoring machines which prepare fibres, and spin, double, twist and wind yarn and thread from natural textile fibres;
- (c) operating and monitoring sewing machines to make ,repair, darn and renovate textile, fur, synthetic or leather garments or embroider ornamental designs on garments or other materials;
- (d) operating and monitoring machines which bleach, shrink, dye, and otherwise treat fibres, yarn, cloth or dry clean garments, fur, rugs, carpets;
- (e) operating and monitoring various machines which prepare leather or treat fur- or wool-bearing pelts;
- (f) operating and monitoring machines which produce, modify and repair standard, custom or orthopaedic footwear and leather articles, such as luggage, brief cases, handbags.

Occupations in this Minor Group are classified into the following unit groups:

- 8151 Fibre preparing, spinning and winding machine operators
- 8152 Weaving and knitting machine operators
- 8153 Sewing machine operators
- 8154 Bleaching, dyeing and fabric cleaning machine operators
- 8155 Fur and leather preparing machine operators
- 8156 Shoemaking and related machine operators

**Notes**

**ISCO 08 Code****8151****Title EN****Fibre preparing, spinning and winding machine operators****Lead Statement**

Fibre-preparing, spinning and winding machine operators operate and monitor machines which prepare fibres, and spin, double, twist and wind yarn and thread from natural textile fibres. They twist two or more strands of yarn to prepare single stronger, smoother, uniform and heavier strands and treat textiles to make them stiff and water resistant.

**Task statement**

Tasks include:

- (a) operating and monitoring machines for tearing woollen rags into fibre;
- (b) operating and monitoring machines for cleaning and turning woollen yarn waste into fluffed wool;
- (c) operating and monitoring machines which combine textile fibres into uniform blends;
- (d) operating and monitoring machines which clean and fluff textile fibres, transform them into sliver, comb them into sliver for first drawing, combine slivers into sliver lap or sliver laps into ribbon lap;
- (e) operating draw frame (machine) having number of drawing sets, each set combining several slivers into one of nearly same weight and thickness as any of original sliver;
- (f) operating and monitoring machines which spin thread and yarn from roving, wind two or more threads onto bobbin, twist two or more strands of yarn or thread into single strands of yarn to increase strength, smoothness and/or uniformity of yarn, or wind yarn or thread from one package to another;
- (g) operating and monitoring spinning frame that draws out and twists roving or sliver into yarn;
- (h) operating and monitoring machines for drawing slivers received from drawing machine into loosely twisted strands;
- (i) preparing sizing for use in stiffening and finishing cloth and yarn by mixing ingredients such as starch, tallow, resins, soaps and water and boiling mixture for specified time in steam;
- (j) treating textiles with chemicals to make them water resistant;
- (k) cleaning rollers and cylinders of carding machines to remove wool waste;
- (l) operating and resurfacing metal drawing rolls of various spinning, combing and lapping machines with new rubber or leather covers.

**Included occupations**

Examples of the occupations classified here:

- Machine-operator, fibre preparing
- Machine-operator, spinning/thread and yarn
- Machine-operator, twisting/thread and yarn
- Machine-operator, winding/thread and yarn

**Excluded occupations**

Some related occupations classified elsewhere:

Spinner - 8151

**Notes**

**ISCO 08 Code****8152****Title EN****Weaving and knitting machine operators****Lead Statement**

Weaving and knitting machine operators set up, operate and monitor weaving and knitting machines which process yarn or thread into woven, non-woven and knitted products such as cloth, lace, carpets, rope, industrial fabric, hosiery and knitted garments or to quilt and embroider fabric

**Task statement**

Tasks include:

- (a) setting up and operating battery of automatic, link-type knitting machines to knit garments of specified pattern and design;
- (b) threading yarn, thread, and fabric through guides, needles, and rollers of machines for weaving, knitting, or other processing;
- (c) tending automatic looms that simultaneously weave pile yarn, filling yarn, and warp yarn material to produce carpets and rugs with various coloured designs;
- (d) operating and monitoring loom on which yarn or twist is intersected and knotted at regular intervals to form mesh;
- (e) operating and monitoring large automatic multi-needle machines to embroider material or to sew lengths of several layers of material to make yard goods, quilts or mattress coverings;
- (f) tending circular knitting machines with automatic pattern controls that knit seamless hose;
- (g) operating and monitoring knitting machines to knit hosiery to shape of foot and leg
- (h) operating and monitoring machine for knitting heel and toes of socks into ribs or tops cut from circular fabric;
- (i) operating and monitoring machine which seams openings in toes of socks;
- (j) operating and monitoring crocheter machine to knit lace, trimming etc. of desired pattern or design;
- (k) examining looms to determine causes of loom stoppage, such as warp filling, harness breaks, or mechanical defects;
- (l) repairing or replacing worn or defective needles and other components;
- (m) cleaning, oiling, and lubricating machines, using air hoses, cleaning solutions, rags, oil cans, and/or grease guns.

**Included occupations**

Examples of the occupations classified here:

- Machine-operator, knitting
- Machine-operator, net production
- Machine-operator, weaving
- Machine-operator, weaving/carpets

**Excluded occupations**

Some related occupations classified elsewhere:

- Knitter - 7318
- Weaver, carpet - 7318
- Weaver, cloth - 7318

**Notes**

**ISCO 08 Code****8153****Title EN****Sewing machine operators****Lead Statement**

Sewing machine operators operate and monitor sewing machines to make, repair, darn and renovate textile, fur, synthetic or leather garments or embroider ornamental designs on garments or other materials. They operate button hole making and eyelet holing machines to cut holes, stitch around holes, stitch buttons and fix eyelets to garments.

**Task statement**

Tasks include:

- (a) operating or tending sewing machines to perform garment sewing operations, such as joining, reinforcing, seaming or decorating garments or garment parts;
- (b) attaching buttons, hooks, zippers, fasteners, or other accessories to fabric, using feeding hoppers or clamp holders;
- (c) tending semiautomatic sewing machines with multiple-sewing heads controlled by pattern chain that embroiders various designs on garments;
- (d) operating machines, such as single or double needle serging and flat-bed felling machines, to automatically join, reinforce, or decorate material or articles;
- (e) operating fur sewing machines to join fur pelt strips to required size and shape and join pelts into garment sections or shells;
- (f) operating stitching machines to sew leather parts together for leather garments, handbags, gloves
- (g) monitoring machine operation to detect problems such as defective stitching, breaks in thread, or machine malfunctions;
- (h) performing equipment maintenance tasks such as replacing needles.

**Included occupations**

Examples of the occupations classified here:

- Machine-operator, sewing
- Machine-operator, sewing/embroidery
- Machine-operator, sewing/textile products

**Excluded occupations**

Some related occupations classified elsewhere:

- Embroiderer - 7533
- Furrier - 7531
- Handicraft worker, textiles - 7318
- Sewer - 7533
- Tailor - 7531

**Notes**

**ISCO 08 Code****8154****Title EN****Bleaching, dyeing and fabric cleaning machine operators****Lead Statement**

Bleaching, dyeing and fabric cleaning-machine operators operate and monitor machines that bleach, shrink, dye, and otherwise treat fibres, yarn or cloth.

**Task statement**

Tasks include:

- (a) starting and controlling machines and equipment to bleach, dye, or otherwise process and finish fabric, yarn, thread, and/or other textile goods;
- (b) tending machines that shrink woven or knitted cloth to predetermined size or strengthen the weave by interlocking the fibres;
- (c) tending a variety of automatic machines that comb and polish furs;
- (d) operating and monitoring machines that treat silk to give it body and weight;
- (e) operating and monitoring machines that impregnate textiles with chemicals to render them waterproof;
- (f) dyeing articles to change or restore their colours;
- (g) operating and monitoring machines that stretch, or impart lustre, or other type of finish to textiles;
- (h) tending and regulating equipment that fumigates and removes foreign matter from furs;
- (i) operating machines that comb, dry and polish furs, clean, sterilize and fluff feathers and blankets;
- (j) keying in processing instructions to program electronic equipment;
- (k) observing display screens, control panels, equipment, and cloth entering or exiting processes to determine if equipment is operating correctly;
- (l) cleaning machine filters and lubricating equipment;

**Included occupations**

Examples of the occupations classified here:

- Machine-operator, dyeing/textile fibres

**Excluded occupations**

Some related occupations classified elsewhere:

- Machine-operator, laundering - 8154
- Launderer, hand - 9121
- Presser, hand - 9121
- Laundry machine operators - 8157

**Notes**

**ISCO 08 Code****81155****Title EN****Fur and leather preparing machine operators****Lead Statement**

Fur and leather preparing machine operators operate and monitor various machines that prepare leather or treat fur- or wool-bearing pelts. They trim, scrape, clean, tan, buff and dye animal hides, pelts or skins to produce leather stock and finished furs.

**Task statement**

Tasks include:

- (a) operating and monitoring machines which remove flesh and fat from hides or pelts to clean and soften them prior to processing;
- (b) operating and monitoring machines which remove long coarse hair from fur pelts, trim hair to even length and dye, stretch and smooth dressed pelts;
- (c) operating and monitoring machines to remove epidermis hair roots, pigment cells and lime salts from grain side of skin;
- (d) operating and monitoring machines to reduce thickness of hide or skin to uniform size;
- (e) operating and monitoring machines to polish or roughen hides or skins to specified finish;
- (f) operating and monitoring machines which separate residual wool from skins, or flesh and hair from hides;
- (g) operating and monitoring machines in which hides are split edgeways to form two or more pieces or to give uniform thickness;
- (h) operating and monitoring machines which treat hides and skins in solutions to convert them into leather;
- (i) treating surface of leather with oil and operating glazing machine to give glossy finish to leather;
- (j) operating and monitoring machines which apply dyes and stains to leather
- (k) maintaining and repairing vats and other machinery

**Included occupations**

Examples of the occupations classified here:

- Machine-operator, dehairing/hide
- Machine-operator, staining/leather
- Machine-operator, tanning

**Excluded occupations**

Some related occupations classified elsewhere:

- Dyer, pelt - 7535
- Tanner - 7535

**Notes**

**ISCO 08 Code****8159****Title EN****Textile, fur and leather products machine operators not elsewhere classified****Lead Statement**

This unit group covers textile, fur and leather products machine operators not classified elsewhere in Minor group 815, Textile, fur and leather products machine operators.

Here should be classified those who are engaged in operating and monitoring machines which make hats, tents, mattresses or miscellaneous articles such as braids or other trimmings.

**Task statement**

Their functions include:

- (a) operating and monitoring machines which form and make hats out of textiles, fur or leather;
- (b) operating and monitoring machines which make miscellaneous articles such as braids or other trimmings;
- (c) operating and monitoring machines that fold cloth into measured length;
- (d) operating and monitoring machines that wind thread, twine, or yarn into balls preparatory to shipping or further processing;
- (e) operating and monitoring machines to measure size of pieces of leather.

**Included occupations**

Examples of the occupations classified here:

- Machine-operator, braid making
- Machine-operator, hat making
- Machine-operator, pattern making/textiles
- Machine-operator, tent making

**Excluded occupations****Notes**