



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 Handicrafts*

POLICY INTEGRATION DEPARTMENT
BUREAU OF STATISTICS

26/02/2008

ISCO-08 Draft Definitions - Handicraft

ISCO 08 Code

731

Title EN

Handicraft workers

Lead Statement

Handicraft workers combine artistic and manual skills to design, make, repair, adjust, maintain and decorate precision instruments, musical instruments, jewellery and other precious-metals, pottery and porcelain ware. They apply traditional and/or recently developed techniques to carve, mould, assemble, weave and decorate various glass, ceramics, textile, straw, stone, wood and leather articles.

Task Statement

Tasks performed usually include: making, calibrating, repairing, maintaining and installing musical and precision instruments; fabricating, adjusting, repairing, or appraising jewellery, ceremonial or religious items, gold, silver, other precious metals, or gems; cutting, filing, polishing and setting precious and semi- precious stones including gems and diamonds and engraving designs on jewellery and precious metal articles; preparing pottery, porcelain ware, sanitary ware, bricks, tiles and abrasive wheels by hand or by machine; blowing, moulding, pressing, cutting, trimming, grinding and polishing glass, shaping molten glass according to patterns; decorating articles made of wood, metal, textiles, glass, ceramics and other materials, and planning, laying out and painting letters, figures, monograms and designs to make signs; applying traditional techniques like seasoning, impregnation to prepare wood, straw, rattan, reeds, stone, clay, shells, and other materials, and carving, moulding, assembling, weaving, or painting and decorating various articles for personal or household use, or for decorative purposes; preparing materials to make wicker furniture, brushes and brooms and weaving various kinds of baskets; applying traditional techniques and patterns to produce woven fabrics, knitted, embroidered and other garments and household articles.

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

7317	Precision-instrument makers and repairers
7312	Musical instrument makers and tuners
7313	Jewellery and precious-metal workers
7314	Potters and related workers
7315	Glass makers, cutters, grinders and finishers
7316	Sign writers, decorative painters, engravers and etchers
7318	Handicraft workers in wood, basketry and related materials
7319	Handicraft workers in textile, leather and related materials
7320	handicraft workers not elsewhere classified

Notes

ISCO 08 Code

7311

Title EN**Precision-instrument makers and repairers****Lead Statement**

Precision-instrument makers and repairers make, calibrate, repair, maintain, adjust and install mechanical watches, clocks, nautical, meteorological, optical, orthopaedic and other precision instruments and equipment and set them for correct performance.

Task Statement

Tasks include:

- (a) repairing, cleaning, and adjusting mechanisms of timing instruments, such as watches and clocks;
- (b) adjusting timing regulators, using calipers, watch-rate recorders, and tweezers.
- (c) cleaning, rinsing, and drying timepiece parts, using solutions and ultrasonic or mechanical watch-cleaning machines;
- (d) testing timepiece accuracy and performance, using meters and other electronic instruments;
- (e) testing accuracy of meters, gauges, indicators, or other recording or controlling instruments to locate defective components and for conformance to standards;
- (f) calibrating instruments or scales, using hand tools, computer, or electronic devices;
- (g) inspecting components, connections, and drive mechanisms to detect defects;
- (h) assembling instruments and devices, such as barometers, control valves, gyroscopes, hygrometers, speedometers, tachometers, and thermostats;
- (i) testing, calibrating, and adjusting electronic, mercurial, aneroid, and other types of meteorological instruments for compliance with printed specifications and schematic diagrams, using voltmeters, oscilloscopes, tube testers, and other test instruments;
- (j) adjusting and repairing masts, supporting structures, clearance lights, control panels, control cabling and wiring, and other electrical and mechanical devices
- (k) repairing and setting optical instruments such as microscopes, telescopes, theodolites, sextants;
- (l) checking whether assembled units conform to specifications and ensuring stipulated performance and sensitivity by standard tests.

Included occupations

Examples of the occupations classified here:

- Maker, instrument/meteorological
- Maker, orthopaedic appliance
- Maker, watch

Excluded occupations

Some related occupations classified elsewhere:

- Maker, instrument/surgical – 3214
- Assembler, watch – 8213
- Machine-operator, machine-tool – 7223

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Notes

ISCO 08 Code**7312****Title EN****Musical instrument makers and tuners****Lead Statement**

Musical-instrument makers and tuners make, assemble, repair, adjust, restore musical instruments and tune them to the required pitch with hand or power tools. They usually specialise in one type of instrument, such as string instruments, brass instruments pianos, reed instruments or percussion instruments.

Task Statement

Tasks include:

- (a) fabricating and assembling musical instruments and instrument parts of wood, ebonite, metal, leather and other materials;
- (b) repairing or replacing musical instrument parts and components, such as strings, bridges, felts, and keys, using hand and power tools;
- (c) playing and inspecting instruments to evaluate their sound quality and to locate any defects;
- (d) adjusting string tensions to achieve proper tone or pitch of stringed instruments;
- (e) adjusting lips, reeds, or toe hole of organ pipes, using hand tools, to regulate airflow and loudness of sound;
- (f) tuning and servicing pipe organs by adjusting pitch of organ A pipes to conform with pitch of tuning fork and adjusting pitch of other pipes with references to pitch of tuned pipes;
- (g) installing new drumheads in percussion instruments;
- (h) tuning accordions by aurally comparing pitch of reeds with master reeds and filing reeds to obtain standard pitch;
- (i) aligning pads and keys on reed or wind instruments;
- (j) tuning percussion instruments to required pitch by tightening or loosening cords holding leather pieces fixed atop or at both ends of instrument;
- (k) assembling and installing new pipe organs and pianos in buildings.

Included occupations

Examples of the occupations classified here:

- Maker, instrument/musical (brass)
- Maker, instrument/musical (string)
- Maker, instrument/musical (woodwind)
- Tuner, musical instrument

Excluded occupations

Electronic Home Entertainment Equipment Installers & Repairers
(ISCO-88 Codes 7242, 7243)

Notes

ISCO 08 Code

7313

Title EN**Jewellery and precious-metal workers****Lead Statement**

Jewellery and precious-metal workers design, fabricate, adjust, repair, or appraise jewellery, ceremonial or religious items, gold, silver, other precious metals, or gems. They cut, file, polish and set precious and semi-precious stones including gems and diamonds and engrave designs on jewellery and precious metal articles. They cut and polish diamonds for industrial purposes.

Task Statement

Tasks include:

- (a) casting jewellery and other non-ferrous metal articles by hand;
- (b) creating new jewellery designs and modifying existing designs, using computers as necessary;
- (c) cutting designs in moulds or other materials to be used as models in the fabrication of metal and jewellery products;
- (d) altering existing jewellery mountings in order to reposition jewels or to adjust mountings.
- (e) repairing, reshaping and restyling old jewellery or precious metal ware following designs or instructions;
- (f) making complete jewellery articles such as rings, necklaces, bangles, brooches and bracelets from materials such as gold, silver, platinum, and precious or semiprecious stones;
- (g) examining gem surfaces and internal structures, using polariscopes, refractometers, microscopes, and other optical instruments, to differentiate between stones, to identify rare specimens, or to detect flaws, defects, or peculiarities affecting gem values;
- (h) cutting and polishing gems and setting them in jewellery articles;
- (i) engraving or embossing letters, designs or decorative lines on jewellery and precious metal ware;
- (j) grinding, drilling and finishing jewel bearings for use in precision instruments such as compasses and chronometers;
- (k) examining assembled or finished products to ensure conformance to specifications, using magnifying glasses or precision measuring instruments.

Included occupations

Examples of the occupations classified here:

- Enameller, jewellery
- Goldsmith
- Jeweller
- Setter, gem
- Silversmith

Excluded occupations**Notes**

ISCO 08 Code**7314****Title EN****Potters and related workers****Lead Statement**

Potters and related workers prepare pottery, porcelain ware, sanitary ware, bricks, tiles and abrasive wheels by hand or by machine.

Task Statement

Tasks include:

- (a) making articles of pottery and porcelain;
- (b) making clay or plaster of Paris moulds;
- (c) reading technical drawings to know customer's requirements;
- (d) forming articles on potter's wheel by pressing thumbs into centres of revolving clay to form hollows, and press on the inside and outside of emerging clay cylinders with hands and fingers, gradually raising and shaping clay to desired forms and sizes;
- (e) adjusting wheel speeds according to the feel of the clay as pieces enlarge and walls become thinner;
- (f) operating jigger machines to form ceramic ware, such as bowls, cups, plates, and saucers;
- (g) adjusting and setting controls of pug mill that mixes, extrudes, cuts, and deposits clay charges in or over moulds as specified;
- (h) smoothening surfaces of finished pieces, using rubber scrapers and wet sponges;
- (i) forming abrasive wheels by moulding and pressing an abrasive mixture by hand or by machine;
- (j) examining finished ware for defects, verifying accuracy of shapes and sizes of objects, using callipers and templates;
- (k) preparing work for sale or exhibition, and maintaining relationships with retail, pottery, art, and resource networks that can facilitate sale or exhibition of work.

Included occupations**Examples of the occupations classified here:**

- Caster, pottery and porcelain
- Modeller, pottery and porcelain
- Potter
- Abrasive wheel moulder

Excluded occupations

Some related occupations classified elsewhere:

- Kiln operator, brick and tile – 8131
- Kiln operator, pottery and porcelain – 8131

Notes

ISCO 08 Code

7315

Title EN**Glass makers, cutters, grinders and finishers****Lead Statement**

Glass-makers, cutters, grinders and finishers blow, mould, press, cut, trim, grind and polish glass, shape molten glass according to patterns. They use manual and artistic skills to design and make ornamental patterns on stained glass.

Task Statement

Tasks include:

- (a) heating glass to pliable stage, using gas flames or ovens, and rotating glass to heat it uniformly;
- (b) blowing and bending glass tubing into specified shapes to form scientific apparatus like flasks, retorts, pipettes;
- (c) grinding and polishing glass objects or parts to correct defects or to prepare surfaces for further finishing and smoothening and polishing rough edges, using belt sander or polishing wheels;
- (d) examining glass stock and finished products and marking or discarding items with defects such as spots, stains, scars, snags, chips, scratches, or unacceptable shapes or finishes;
- (e) reading work orders to determine dimensions, cutting locations, and quantities to cut;
- (f) observing gauges, computer printouts and video monitors to verify specified processing conditions and make adjustments as necessary;
- (g) positioning pattern or drawing on glass, measuring dimensions, and marking cutting lines, using glass cutting tools and cutting glass along marked outlines or around pattern;
- (h) setting up, operating and adjusting computerized or robotic glass cutting equipment
- (i) inspecting, weighing, and measuring products to verify conformance to specifications, using instruments such as micrometers, callipers, magnifiers, and rulers;
- (j) regulating oven temperatures according to glass types to be processed;
- (k) transferring pattern for individual stained glass parts from full size drawing to pattern paper, using stylus to trace drawings;
- (l) spraying silver solution on glass to provide mirrored surface, using spray gun;
- (m) laying out cutting and grinding optical and other glass to specified dimensions and weight for moulding into lens blanks and for use as watch crystals.

Included occupations

Examples of the occupations classified here:

- Blower, glass
- Cutter, glass
- Finisher, glass
- Grinder, glass

Excluded occupations

Some related occupations classified elsewhere:

- Furnace-operator, glass production - 8131

Notes

ISCO 08 Code**7316****Title EN****Sign writers, decorative painters, engravers and etchers****Lead Statement**

Sign writers, decorative painters, engravers and etchers decorate articles made of wood, metal, textiles, glass, ceramics and other materials. They plan, lay out and paint letters, figures, monograms and designs to make signs and engrave and etch ornamental and floral designs on glass and other articles.

Task Statement

Tasks include:

- (a) painting decorative free-hand designs on objects, such as pottery, glass, cigarette cases, lampshades;
- (b) transferring from paper transfers decorative or ornamental designs on articles;
- (c) integrating and developing visual elements, such as line, space, mass, colour, and perspective, in order to produce desired effects such as the illustration of ideas, emotions, or moods;
- (d) laying out and painting in one or more languages letters, figures, monograms and designs to make signs;
- (e) sketching or tracing design or lettering onto work piece or pattern material to prepare pattern or stencil;
- (f) designing pattern or lettering to paint work pieces, such as signs, glassware, pottery, or zinc plates;
- (g) using software and routing equipment to produce 3D Carved images for application onto larger signage as well as engraved and inlaid signs;
- (h) designing and producing normal flat cut lettering or lettering that is shadowed with applied vinyl or lettering that is ready cut for application;
- (i) writing, painting, or printing signs or show cards used for display or other purposes;
- (j) cutting out letters and signs for display purposes from wallboard or cardboard, by hand or machines, such as electrically powered jigsaw or bandsaw;
- (k) examining sketches, diagrams, samples, blueprints, or photographs to decide how designs are to be etched, cut, or engraved onto work pieces;
- (l) measuring and computing dimensions of lettering, designs, or patterns to be engraved;
- (m) engraving and printing patterns, ornamental designs, etchings, trademarks, figures or lettering onto flat or curved surfaces of a wide variety of metal, glass, plastic, or ceramic items;
- (n) etching decorative designs, calibration markings and other figures on glass articles.

Included occupations

"Examples of the occupations classified here:

- Cutter, crystal glass
- Engraver, glass
- Etcher, glass
- Enameller, glass
- Painter, decorative
- Sign-writer"

Excluded occupations

"Some related occupations classified elsewhere:

- Machine-operator, painting/ceramics – 8131
- Machine-operator, painting/glass – 8131
- Painter, building – 7141
- Painter, manufactured articles – 7142
- Painter, vehicle – 7142"

ISCO 08 Code

7317

Title EN**Handicraft workers in wood, basketry and related materials****Lead Statement**

Handicraft workers in wood and related materials apply traditional techniques like seasoning, impregnation to prepare wood, straw, rattan, reeds, stone, clay, shells, and other materials, and carve, mould, assemble, weave, or paint and decorate various articles for personal or household use, or for decorative purposes. Basketry weavers, brush makers and related workers select and prepare materials like bristles, nylon, fibre, bass, whisker and wire to make wicker furniture, brushes and brooms and weave various kinds of baskets.

Task Statement

Tasks include:

- (a) preparing wood, straw, rattan, reeds, stone, shells, or similar materials;
- (b) carving floral and artistic designs on wooden surfaces for decorative purposes;
- (c) painting free hand decorative designs on glass and pottery or porcelain ware;
- (d) carving, assembling, weaving, painting and decorating various articles for personal or household use such as salad bowls, serving-spoons, cutting-boards, trays, vases, jugs, baskets, straw hats, straw mats and similar objects;
- (e) carving, assembling, weaving and painting various decorative articles such as statues and other sculptures, chess pieces, jewellery, and similar objects;
- (f) making wicker furniture from peeled and softened rattan, reeds, rushes, willow branches and similar materials;
- (g) making various kinds of baskets by interlacing osier, rattan, reeds, rushes or similar materials;
- (h) forming bottom of basket by interlacing strips of rattan, wood veneer or other material with framework of rods of material such as willow;
- (i) inserting rods around edge of bottom between woven sections of bottom and bending them upright to serve as framework for sides;
- (j) selecting and preparing brush materials, such as bristles, nylon, fibres and wire, and setting them in brush base;
- (k) selecting and preparing materials, such as broom corn, bass, whisker and fibre, and fastening them to broom handles.

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Included occupations

"Examples of the occupations classified here:

- Handicraft worker, reed weaving
- Handicraft worker, stone articles
- Handicraft worker, wooden articles
- Maker, basket
- Maker, brush
- Maker, furniture/wicker"

Excluded occupations

"Some related occupations classified elsewhere:

- Machine-operator, carving/stone products – 8114
- Machine-operator, wood products – 7523"

Notes

ISCO 08 Code**7319****Title EN****Handicraft workers not elsewhere classified****Lead Statement**

Workers in this unit group perform various traditional tasks not classified elsewhere in Minor Group 731 – Handicraft Workers. Those who perform miscellaneous traditional metal forging tasks should be classified here.

Task Statement

Their functions include:

- (a) forging metal to required shape and size by processes of heating, bending, hammering etc;
- (b) forging domestic and agricultural articles, used in villages, by repeated heating and hammering;
- (c) forging iron or steel to required dimensions by heating and hammering with power hammer;
- (d) shaping articles from metal pieces by using dies and drop forging or stamping machine;
- (e) fitting iron shoes to hoofs of animals such as bullocks, horses, etc., to protect them from injury and excessive wear and tear;
- (f) fashioning metal sheet on spinning lathe into hollow-ware, utensils, and fancy articles using patterns and spinning tools;
- (g) performing variety of routine and low skilled tasks, in smithy section such as operating levers of power hammer, pulling string of drop forging machine, assisting forging machine operator in placing material on anvil or carrying it off.

Included occupations**Excluded occupations****Notes**

ISCO 08 Code**8181****Title EN****Glass and ceramics plant operators****Lead Statement**

Glass and ceramics plant operators operate and monitor kilns, furnaces and other machinery and equipment used in the manufacture of glass, ceramics, porcelain, tiles or bricks. They operate machines to anneal, harden or decorate glass and ceramics.

Task Statement

Tasks include:

- (a) operating and monitoring glass-making furnaces to make glass by melting and fusing pre-mixed ingredients;
- (b) tending hot- or cold-end spray equipment used to coat glassware with surface hardener;
- (c) operating and maintaining machines that press or blow molten glass in moulds to form or shape containers, such as bottles, jars and drinking glasses;
- (d) operating hand press to mould glass into required shape;
- (e) operating drawing kiln to process molten glass into continuous sheet of flat glass;
- (f) operating and monitoring floating-glass production plant;
- (g) operating and maintaining finishing machines to grind, drill, sand, bevel, decorate, wash or polish glass or glass products;
- (h) setting and operating press machines to mould ceramic articles from moist clay;
- (i) operating machines to mix clay with water to knead it into a suitable plastic condition or semi-liquid form for making ceramic products;
- (j) operating and monitoring kilns which bake pottery, porcelain ware and bake bricks and tiles;
- (k) operating and monitoring machines for making glaze or abrasives;
- (l) operating and monitoring machines which extrude molten glass to form fibreglass filaments;
- (m) observing finished products to identify splits, cracks, breaks, colour and other imperfections.

Included occupations

Examples of the occupations classified here:

- Furnace-operator, glass production
- Kiln-operator, brick and tile
- Kiln-operator, pottery and porcelain
- Machine-operator, blowing/glass
- Machine-operator, mixing/clay
- Machine-operator, mixing/glass

Excluded occupations

Some related occupations classified elsewhere:

- Blower, glass – 7315
- Cutter, glass – 7315
- Moulder, brick and tile – 7314

Notes