



Careers in manufacturing: plastics, rubber and cabling

Production operations

Plastics, rubber and cabling production machine operators operate a wide variety of machines to manufacture and finish plastic and rubber products.

Production operations occupations within the plastics, rubber and cabling sector include:

- Plastic cabling machine operator
- Plastic compounding and reclamation machine operator
- Plastics production machine operator (general)
- Reinforced plastic and composite production worker
- Rubber production machine operator.

Plastic cabling machine operator

Plastic cabling machine operators operate extruding machines to encase wire, cord, cable and optic fibre in plastic or rubber.

Specialisations:

- Insulation extruder operator
- Optic fibre drawer
- Wire drawer (plastics)

Plastic compounding and reclamation machine operator

Plastic compounding and reclamation machine operators operate mixing and grinding machines to prepare plastic powders and liquid blends, and recycle waste plastic materials from factory operations.

Specialisations:

- Pelletising extruder operator
- Powder hand (plastics)
- Shredder/granulator operator

Plastics production machine operator (general)

Plastics production machine operators (general) operate extruding, injection moulding and blow moulding machines to produce finished plastic products.

Specialisations:

- Blow moulding machine operator
- Extruding machine operator (plastics)
- Injection moulding machine operator (plastics)
- Lamination machine operator
- Plastic production machine setter
- Rotational moulding operator (plastics)

Reinforced plastic and composite production worker

Reinforced plastic and composite production workers operate machines to apply gelcoat, colouring and fibre-reinforced plastic to moulds to produce fibreglass and laminated products.

Specialisations:

- Fibreglass gun hand
- Fibreglass laminator
- Resin transfer moulding machine operator

Rubber production machine operator

Rubber production machine operators operate machines to manufacture rubber products, such as tyres.

Specialisations:

- Rubber belt splicer
- Rubber compounder
- Rubber extrusion machine operator
- Rubber knitting and reinforcing machine operator
- Rubber moulding machine operator
- Rubber roller grinder operator

Relevant qualifications (for all operators):

- Certificate III in Polymer Processing
- Certificate IV in Polymer Technology.

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