METAL FABRICATOR

Do you want to work in a challenging, constantly advancing & exciting industry that actively encourages women to apply and provides the following opportunities?

- **gain transferrable skills & knowledge**
- **long term option to set up your own business**
- **capacity to earn high income with experience**
- **expand you career options**
- **advance your education**
- **use cutting edge technologies**

OVERVIEW OF INDUSTRY

Australia's steel fabrication industry is highly diverse, with a large number of businesses producing a wide variety of steel fabricated products that are used in a range of economically significant down-stream industries. Construction, manufacturing and mining industries—are the main consumers of steel fabricated products. Most steel fabrication businesses are small to medium enterprises. Metal fabrication is the process of building machines and structures from raw metal materials. The process includes cutting, burning, welding, machining, forming, and assembly to create the final product. Metal fabrication projects include everything from hand railings to heavy equipment and machinery.

WHAT DOES A METAL FABRICATOR DO

Metal fabricators are specialist engineering fabrication tradespersons. They cut, shape and join metal to make repair or maintain a variety of metal structures and products. Metal fabricators can also work as heavy fabricators working with heavy gauge metals to manufacture or repair structures and containers that may have to withstand intense pressure, such as ships, boiler and storage tanks.

They use hand tools, flame cutting torches and metalworking machines, such as guillotines, lathes, millers, drills, grinders and shearing machines. They also use machine tools such as vices, hydraulic presses and rolling machines to shape and bend components which are then assembled by welding, bolting or riveting.

"I love working as a metal fabricator because I am continually building my practical skills and capacity to design amazing projects; I have so many career options now."

For further information or advise contact
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MAE
MANUFACTURING, AGRIFOOD AND ELECTROTECHNOLOGY

Australian Government

National Careers Institute

METAL FABRICATOR

Selection Criteria:

*well-developed hand-eye coordination
*the ability to communicate well, both oral and written skills
*the ability to work well under pressure and meet deadlines
*an eye for detail and following precise work instructions.
*ability to read engineering drawings and follow instructions
*the ability to work well on projects, both independently and as part of a team
*competent at maths and measuring
*basic computer skills
*physically fit and able to work in a range of environments

TASKS YOU MAY BE REQUIRED TO DO

*Interpret blueprints, drawing and specifications to determine job requirements
*Use instruments and perform engineering measurements and computations
*Select, clean, prepare and size metal stock
*Mark, cut and spin metal sections and shapes
*Shape, form and bend metal products, sections and piping
*Assemble, erect, fit and align parts, products and structures to be joined
*Join metal sections using various welding, bolting, riveting or other joining techniques
*Perform, where required, forging, founding, electroplating of metal stock and products
*Examine and test welds for width of bead, penetrations, and precision
*Clean, smooth and finish products and welds to meet specifications,
*Repair or modify damaged metal products and components
*Prepare and plan safe work schedule

Training Requirements and Pathways

Entry level

The pre-apprenticeship qualification **MEM20105 - Certificate II in Engineering** can be completed as a School-Based Apprenticeships and Traineeship (SBAT) or trainee. It is the minimum requirement to commencing work as a metal fabricator. This usually takes 12- 24 months to complete.

Trade qualification:

MEM30319 - Certificate III in Engineering - Fabrication Trade qualification is the recognised trade qualification for this occupation.

To become a metal fabricator, you usually need to undertake an apprenticeship in engineering tradesperson fabrication. There three areas of specialisation in this trade which are - Engineering tradesperson fabrication (first class welder), Engineering tradesperson fabrication (heavy/welder) and Engineering tradesperson fabrication (sheet metal) apprenticeships usually take 42 to 48 months to complete and are available as a school based traineeship.

Income and future opportunities

The industry is currently experiencing a skills shortage so there are many opportunities to gain employment as a metal fabricator.

This occupation has a large variation in wages due to how diverse the role can be; trainees and apprentices are usually paid the award wage but employers experiencing a skills shortage may pay above the award to new employees. According to Fairwork Australia a first-year apprentice will receive $548.70 per week.

Wages:

The average wage for experienced metal fabricators ranges from $63,000-$85,000 depending on what state you live in and who your employer is, those employed in the mining industry could be paid as much as $123,000 per annum.

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