

# Coding Occupations in Singapore

## What is SSOC?

The Singapore Standard Occupational Classification (SSOC) is the national statistical standard for **classifying occupations**. It adopts the basic framework and principles of the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO) developed by the International Labour Office (ILO).

SSOC classifies occupations of **Employed Individuals**



SSOC is **not applicable** to **Persons outside the labour force**



Examples: Housewives, Full-time Students, Retirees

Used in the **compilation, analysis and dissemination** of a wide range of statistics including demographic, social and labour statistics to facilitate **data sharing and ensure data coherence**.

## How to Determine an Appropriate SSOC Code?

SSOC applies a **five-digit coding system** to reflect the five levels of classification. An example of the different levels under SSOC Major Group 5 is shown below.

	Classification Level	Classification Title	Classification Code
1	Major Group (one-digit or alpha codes)	Services and Sales Workers	5
2	Sub-major Group (two-digit codes)	Sales Workers	52
3	Minor Group (three-digit codes)	Shop Salespersons	522
4	Unit Group (four-digit codes)	Shop and Store Salespersons	5220
5	Occupation (five-digit codes - most detailed level)	Sales Supervisor Shop Sales Assistant	52201 52202

An occupation is defined as a set of jobs whose main tasks and duties are characterised by a high degree of similarity.

**Example**  
A sales assistant working in a fashion store and a salesperson working in a furniture shop are two different jobs.

They are grouped under the same occupation code SSOC 52202 Shop Sales Assistant as the main tasks and duties of selling goods and explaining the functions and qualities of goods and services to customers are similar.

## The Key Principle

Persons who perform the **same principal tasks and duties** are to be classified under the same occupation regardless of work experience, employment status and qualifications.



### Example

An engineer graduate who gets paid for working in his father's business as a carpenter in cutting, assembling and repairing structural and other woodwork will be classified as SSOC 71151 Carpenter based on his main tasks and duties.

## Resources to Determine an Appropriate SSOC Code

### SSOC Alphabetical Index or the SSOC Search

To look for the job title by which the occupation is known, followed by selecting the most appropriate code by referring to the detailed definition.

### SSOC Classification Structure

To broadly classify the job before narrowing down to the most appropriate five-digit code at the occupational level. Confirm the choice of code by referring to the detailed definition.

## Additional References

### SSOC 2024 Publication

- Regularly updated to reflect developments in the labour market and changes in international standards.
- Key changes include new codes for emerging occupations in sectors like Infocomm Technology and Green Economy.
- Reclassification of some occupations due to evolving main tasks/duties of occupations.
- Enhanced detailed definitions for certain codes to provide clarity in the descriptions of the main tasks/ duties of these occupations.

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