

July 2022

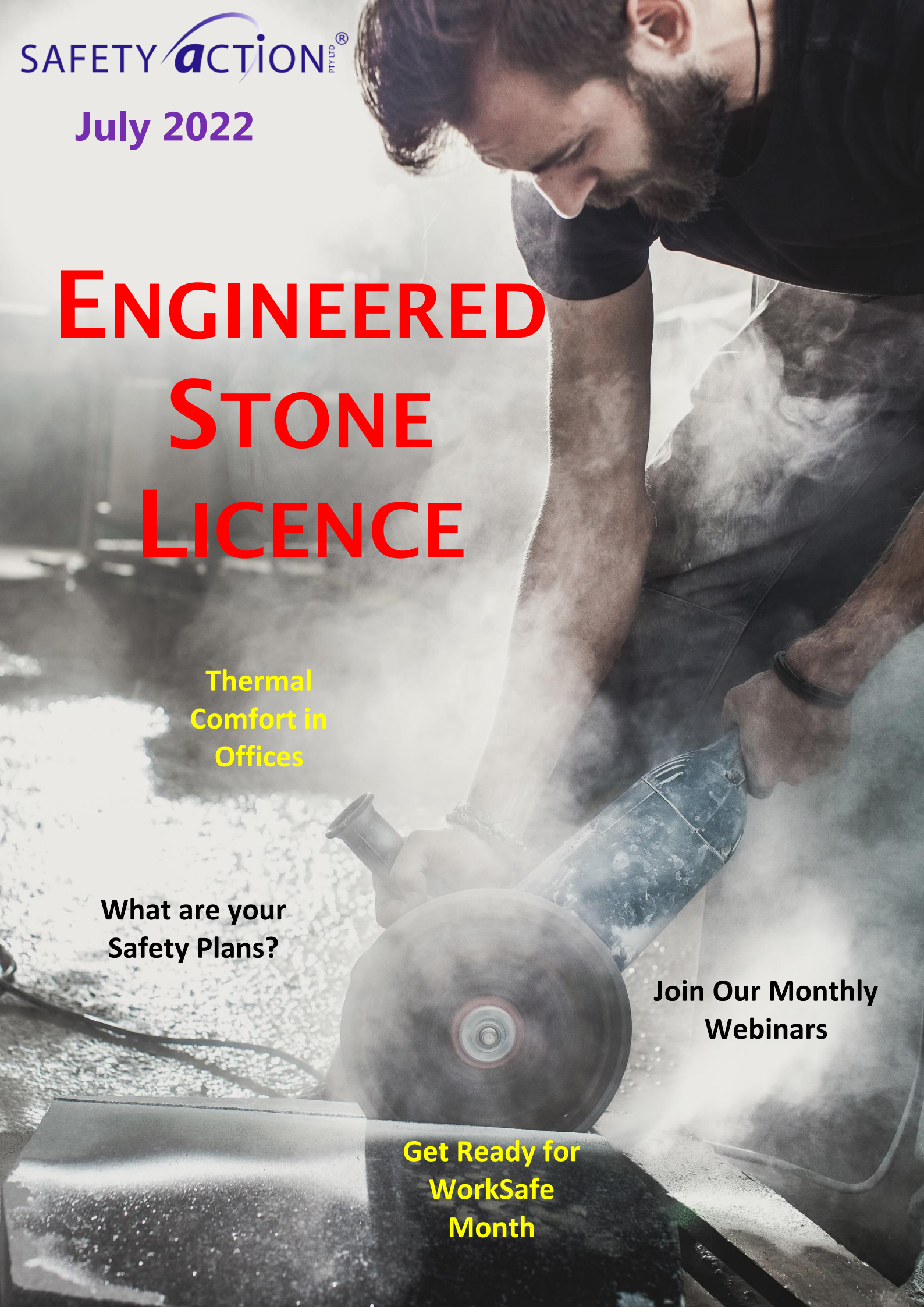
ENGINEERED STONE LICENCE

**Thermal
Comfort in
Offices**

**What are your
Safety Plans?**

**Join Our Monthly
Webinars**

**Get Ready for
WorkSafe
Month**



What's new in July?

This month Safety Action welcomes Andre Wassnig to our safety team.

Prior to the pandemic, Andre was an Airline Pilot where he decided to study Work Health and Safety. He has worked the last 2 years as a Safety Advisor and joins us with a solid knowledge and a passion for safety.

We look forward to introducing Andre to our many friends and clients in the coming weeks.

This month we discuss the new Engineered Stone licence as well as having thermal comfort in the office.

Stay Safe!



Andre Wassnig

Safety Webinar – 8th July 10am

We invite you to join us at **10am on Friday 8th July** for our free monthly webinar to keep you up to date on workplace health and safety. Gary and the team present short informal sessions of only 20 to 30 minutes on topical issues and answer your questions.

Register [here](#)

Missed our last webinar? View them [here](#)

SAFETY ACTION TEAM



Andrea Rowe



Stephen Weber



Miriam Oliver



Gary Rowe



Glecellie Castro



Sarah Oliver



Katie Weber



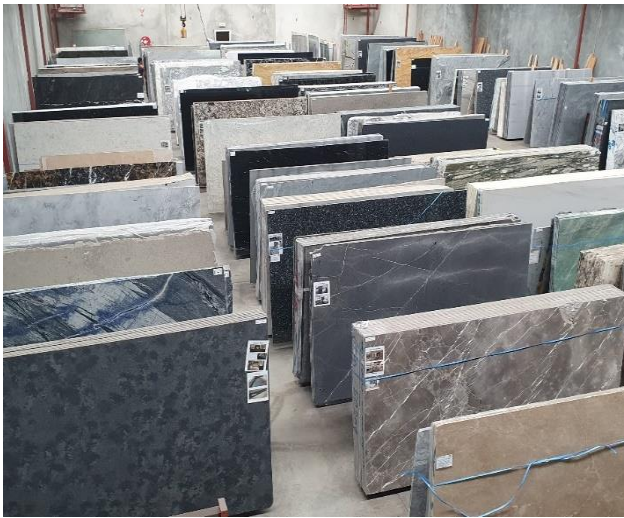
Jessica Kerigo

Engineered Stone Licence

What is Engineered Stone?

Artificial stone has high quantities of crystalline silica, which are released when the stone is cut, ground, drilled or abrasively polished.

Without appropriate control measures in place, exposure to dust containing crystalline silica can lead to long diseases like Silicosis. Brand names for engineered stones include *Quartz*, *Caesarstone*, *Dekton*, *Silestone* and *Viatera* to name a few.



Engineered Stone Licence?

The Victorian OHS Regulations (e.g., Reg 319 A to Z) have been amended and businesses now need an engineered stone licence if their work involves high risk crystalline silica work e.g., cutting, grinding and/or abrasively polishing artificial stone.

You will also need a licence to buy engineered stone from a supplier or manufacturer, if you intend to undertake an engineered stone process.

The engineered stone Licence allows an organisation to undertake an engineered stone process at your workplace.

Licence Requirements

Employers are responsible for ensuring employees receive information, instruction and training before they start work at a location where an engineered stone process occurs. This needs to cover:

- The health risks associated with exposure to crystalline silica dust.
- The need for and proper use of control measures required under the crystalline silica regulations.
- How the control measures are to be implemented. This includes for the use of a power tool or mechanical plant; and for the use, fit, maintenance and storage of respiratory protective equipment.

Employers also need to provide job applicants, and current employees undertaking an engineered stone process, information on:

- The health risks associated with exposure to crystalline silica dust.
- The need for and details of control measures required under the crystalline silica regulations.
- How the control measures are to be implemented.

Timing for the New Vic Licence

The requirement to apply for an engineered stone licence came into effect on 15 November 2021. However, a yearlong transition period provides time to prepare a licence application. Therefore, if you apply before 15 November 2022, and are granted a licence, the issue date will be 15 November 2022. Your licence will be valid for 5 years from this date. Applications received after the transition period will incur a fee.

A licence is not required prior to 15 November 2022. However, employers and self-employed persons must prepare an engineered stone control plan (ESCP) in line with the OHS Regulations before undertaking any work involving an engineered stone process.

New standards for Button Batteries

The Australian Government has introduced **four mandatory standards** associated with the use of button and coin batteries. The standards apply to both button cell and coin cell batteries, and to the products that include them. They include:

- ***Consumer Goods (Products Containing Button/Coin Batteries) Information Standard***

The information standard requires that you must include warnings: In the instructions, if they accompany the goods. On the package, if the goods are packaged, and attached to the goods themselves, if the goods aren't packaged.

The warnings must be clearly visible, prominent, and legible.

- **Consumer Goods (Products Containing Button/Coin Batteries) Safety Standard**



This mandatory standard defines the safety requirements for all consumer goods containing button/coin batteries, including storage containers and organisers. Consumer goods containing button/coin batteries must meet secure battery requirements and are subject to compliance testing.

All consumer goods that contain a button/coin battery: must be secure and must not release the batteries during reasonably foreseeable use or misuse of the product. This is mandatory whether or not the battery is intended to be user-replaceable

- **Consumer Goods (Button/Coin Batteries) Safety Standard**

This mandatory standard defines the requirements for child-resistant packaging when supplying button/coin batteries. Button/coin batteries must be supplied in child-resistant packaging. This means that the packaging limits a child's ability to access the batteries. It is not necessarily child-proof.

- **Consumer Goods (Button/Coin Batteries) Information Standard**

This information standard requires that: any packaging used to supply button/coin batteries must be marked clearly with a warning and that button/coin batteries with a diameter of 20 mm or more must be marked with a 'keep out of reach of children' symbol on the battery itself.

Safety Plans for Your Workplace

As the second half of the year begins it's a good time to assess what areas of your workplace could do with a safety check up.

Our services include, but are not limited to:

- **Safety Leadership Training** either inhouse at your workplace or at our offices in Clayton. For a full list of training we can provide please [visit our website](#).
- **Safety Audits and Reviews** to identify both formal and informal processes in your business and how they are performing.
- Providing a **Safety Helpline and Support Service** to your business for quick access to our team for accurate safety advice when you need it.
- Developing easy to use **Safety Manuals and Procedures** to assist your workers to stay safe everyday.



Contact us to discuss how we can assist your workplace in Health and Safety today.

Thermal Comfort in Offices

Many people ask, "what are the requirements for office temperature?" At this time of year some staff complain that their office is too cold.

If natural ventilation or air conditioning systems do not adequately control the working conditions, people can feel uncomfortable or fatigued and are likely to be less productive.



Comfortable workers are happier and more productive

What is Generally Acceptable?

Condition	Optimal Range	Possible adverse effects		Basic controls
		If too low	If too high	
Temperature	20 – 26 ° C <i>There should be no adverse effects to health within the range 18 - 30°C</i>	Feel cold, shivering.	Stuffiness, stickiness, tiredness.	Control direct sunlight <i>e.g., blinds or position work stations away from direct sunlight.</i>
Humidity <i>Amount of water vapour in air</i>	40% - 60% <i>Note: There is no supported scientific evidence that extremes of humidity have significant impact on health.</i>	Dryness of eyes, nose and throat.	Above 80% people may feel stuffy, sticky and fatigued.	Increase airflow to reduce effects <i>e.g. fans.</i>
Ventilation	0.1 – 0.2 metres per second <i>Up to 0.5 m/s if naturally ventilated</i>	Stuffiness and possible odours.	Draughts.	Locate work stations away from air outlets. Plants can also help reduce toxins in the air.

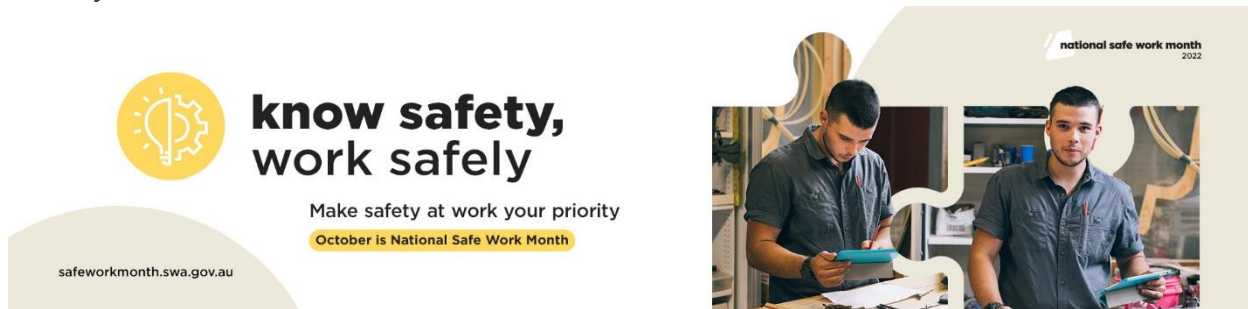
Note: Encourage workers to dress appropriately for the conditions and to drink water frequently in hot conditions.

National Safe Work Month 2022

October is National Safe Work Month every year. With the year moving quickly now is a perfect time to start planning safety activities in your workplace.

Safe Work Australia has released a campaign kit to make it easier for all workplaces to promote safety in the workplace.

This years theme is:



How to Get Involved?

1. Go to the [National Safe Work Month Website](#) and download the campaign kit.
2. Customise and share the resources with your workplace.
3. Follow Safe Work Australia on [social media](#) to keep up to date on new campaign materials and to share National Safe Work Month updates.
4. Use the hashtags **#safeworkmonth**, **#KnowSafety** and **#WorkSafely** when promoting National Safe Work Month on social media.

2-Day Safety Leadership Workshop

Workshop includes; effective communication, safety legislation, what to do and not to do when there's a safety incident, risk assessments, review work procedures and conduct safety talks and positively change behaviours.

Wednesday 13th & Thursday 14th July 2022

Fee - \$1,500+GST

Includes catering, training materials and a comprehensive manual.

8am – 4pm each day

Safety Action, Clayton

[Click here](#) to register.



"I wished I had done this course 20 years ago" – Manager, Melbourne Water

"Everything I thought I knew about safety law was wrong" – Metro Manager