



Government
of South Australia

Department for Transport,
Energy and Infrastructure

No 19

RESTRICTED ACCESS VEHICLE INFORMATION BULLETIN

CONCESSIONAL MASS LIMITS FOR VEHICLES ACCREDITED IN THE MASS MANAGEMENT MODULE OF THE NATIONAL HEAVY VEHICLE ACCREDITATION SCHEME (NHVAS)

INTRODUCTION

Concessional Mass Limits (CML) will provide mass benefits for operators accredited under the National Heavy Vehicle Accreditation Scheme (NHVAS) Mass Management module from 1 July 2006.

Vehicles operating under the scheme are subject to the conditions detailed in a Notice titled '*Concessional Mass Limits for Vehicles Accredited in the Mass Management Module of the National Heavy Vehicle Accreditation Scheme (NHVAS)*' published in the South Australian Government Gazette. This Information Bulletin should be read in conjunction with the Notice. Both documents can be viewed or downloaded from:

http://www.transport.sa.gov.au/freight/road/vehicle_configuration/index.asp

CML is an intermediate, third tier of national mass limits between General Mass Limits provided in the *Road Traffic (Mass and Loading Requirements) Regulations 1999* and Higher Mass Limits as enabled through the Gazette Notice '*Higher Mass Limits for Vehicles Fitted with Road Friendly Suspensions*'

Austrroads has reviewed its enforcement guidelines to replace the existing National Association of Australian State Road Authorities (NAASRA) 'administrative tolerance' for mass with a Measurement Adjustment based solely on weighing equipment accuracy and site characteristics. Measurement Adjustments will apply from 1 July 2006 and will result in effective load reduction for operators who may have previously been able to load accurately within the NAASRA enforcement tolerance without penalty.

A Fact Sheet on Mass Measurement Adjustments is available from:
<http://www.transport.sa.gov.au/publications/legislation.asp>

CML will enable only accredited operators to broadly retain current NAASRA tolerance levels, however their accreditation systems will raise non-conformances if any loading occurs above relevant mass limits.

Drivers operating under the Notice are required to carry a copy of the Notice together with Route Compliance documentation, and if requested, produce them to a Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure Transport Safety Compliance Officer or a Police Officer.

VEHICLES AND AXLE GROUPS ELIGIBLE FOR CONCESSIONAL MASS LIMITS

Concessional Mass Limit increases are confined to the vehicle configurations listed in the Notice. Generally, these are the configurations commonly used for road freight transport.

An explanatory note within the Notice also gives examples of vehicles that for reasons of road safety or infrastructure protection are not eligible.

CML increases are limited to:

- 0.5 tonne increase on tandem axle groups with 8 tyres, to 17.0 tonnes;
- 1.0 tonne increase on triaxle groups with 12 tyres, to 21.0 tonnes;

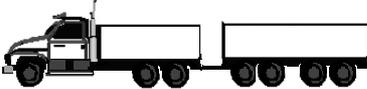
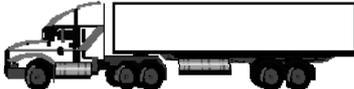
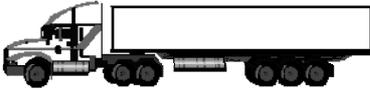
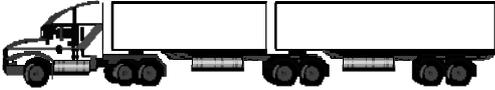
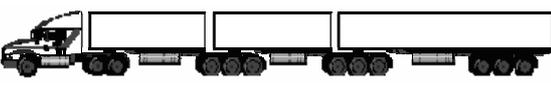
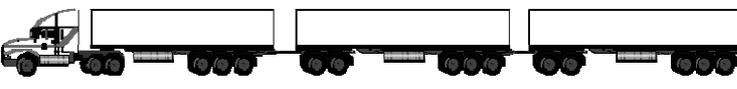
The following table shows examples of Concessional Mass Limits (CML) for approved vehicle configurations, compared to General Mass Limits (GML) and Higher Mass Limits (HML).

The vehicles shown do not include every possible arrangement of axle groups for which concessional mass is available. Any tandem or triaxle group with dual tyres on approved vehicles can be eligible for a mass increase but the gross vehicle mass increase, regardless of the number of eligible axle groups, is capped.

The maximum CML gross mass increase for any vehicle not exceeding 55 tonnes is 1.0 tonne, whereas for vehicles in excess of 55 tonnes the maximum gross mass increase is 2.0 tonnes.

COMPARISON OF MASS LIMITS (TONNES)

Examples only - Not all eligible variations are shown

COMBINATION	MASS TIER	TANDEM AXLE LIMIT	TRI - AXLE LIMIT	GROSS MASS LIMIT
	GML	16.5	-	22.5
	CML	17.0	-	23.0
	HML	17.0	-	23.0
	GML	16.5	-	42.5
	CML	17.0	-	43.5
	HML	-	-	-
	GML	16.5	-	39.0
	CML	17.0	-	40.0
	HML	17.0	-	40.0
	GML	16.5	20.0	42.5
	CML	17.0	21.0	43.5
	HML	17.0	22.5	45.5
	GML	16.5	-	55.5
	CML	17.0	-	57.0
	HML	17.0	-	57.0
	GML	16.5	20.0	62.5
	CML	17.0	21.0	64.5
	HML	17.0	22.5	68.0
	GML	16.5	20.0	82.5
	CML	17.0	21.0	84.5
	HML	-	-	-
	GML	16.5	20.0	79.0
	CML	17.0	21.0	81.0
	HML	17.0	22.5	85.0
	GML	16.5	20.0	115.5
	CML	17.0	21.0	117.5
	HML	17.0	22.5	124.5

NOTE: All Tandem and Triaxle groups fitted with dual tyres.

TRAILER SUSPENSION MAINTENANCE

Road Friendly Suspensions are not required for CML operation.

Continued optimum suspension performance, whether road friendly or not, is however required to minimise wear to road pavements.

From 1 January 2007, all CML vehicles must fully comply with a new additional trailer suspension maintenance Standard to be included in the Mass Management Module of NHVAS. This requirement will also apply to Higher Mass Limits vehicles, which are accredited in the same Mass Management Module.

Details of the additional Standard (see Standard 8) are available from:

<http://www.ntc.gov.au/ViewPage.aspx?page=A02301406400080020>

Printed copies of a referenced document, the Air Suspension Code can be purchased by telephoning 1800 649 578. An online version can be downloaded from:

<http://www.artsa.com.au/codes.html>

Where trailers are not maintained by the mass-accredited operator, e.g. in the case of hire trailers, a statement of compliance with the suspension maintenance standard from the trailer owner or hirer must accompany accredited vehicles.

ROUTES

The driver of any vehicle loaded to CML must carry a copy of the Notice and Route Compliance documentation and travel only on routes that do not require the vehicle to cross any of the limited capacity bridges listed in the Notice. Travel over these bridges while loaded to CML is an offence. All drivers must also comply with any locally imposed traffic restrictions, such as a bridge with a Council 'Load Limit' sign.

Otherwise, general access vehicles loaded to CML may travel anywhere on the road network.

If the vehicle is a B-Double, over-length Stinger Car Carrier or Road Train, the allowable routes are limited to those that are specified routes in the respective Gazette Notices relating to the operation of those vehicles. Likewise, B-Triples must travel only on routes specified in the relevant approval (permit).

LOAD RATING OF VEHICLES

The total mass of a motor vehicle, trailer or combination must not exceed the registered Gross Vehicle Mass, Gross Trailer Mass or Gross Combination Mass as shown on the certificate of registration.

An owner can apply for a reassessment of the vehicle's Gross Vehicle Mass, Gross Trailer Mass or Gross Combination Mass if the rating is considered incorrect or can be upgraded. Application forms are available from any Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure Customer Service Centre or Service SA Customer Service Centre.

MASS MANAGEMENT ACCREDITATION SCHEME

Under the Notice, only operators of vehicles accredited in an approved Mass Management Accreditation Scheme can take advantage of CML.

The accreditation requirement provides an assurance that through the adoption of sound management practices, operators load their vehicles within the specified mass limits and the vehicles adhere to approved routes.

Scheme members are responsible for demonstrating that their vehicles comply with the mass limits by operating a mass management system.

The Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure (DTEI), as the Scheme provider in SA is responsible for assessing applications, administering all aspects of the system and monitoring the performance of the scheme members. There is no charge to operators at present.

The Scheme requires that independent auditors undertake audits. In general, costs associated with audits must be borne by operators.

In South Australia, the Mass Management Module of NHVAS has been established and is operating specifically for triaxle trailer access to Higher Mass Limits. Operators currently accredited in South Australia for this purpose will now also be able to access CML while travelling on routes not approved for Higher Mass Limits.

Details of NHVAS arrangements in South Australia can be viewed or downloaded from <http://www.transport.sa.gov.au/freight/road/accreditation/mass.asp>

The Mass Management Module of NHVAS as currently administered in SA does not however at present accommodate other heavy vehicles that would qualify for CML (e.g. a rigid truck). Changes are being made to the Department's Scheme to encourage accreditation of these other vehicles. In the interim, operators of these vehicles who wish to obtain mass accreditation are advised to contact DTEI Heavy Vehicle Accreditation and Audit Unit, Walkley Heights on (08) 8260 0005 for advice regarding the accreditation Scheme.

ACCREDITED VEHICLES OTHER THAN SOUTH AUSTRALIAN

CML will operate in most other states under similar conditions to those applying in South Australia.

In South Australia the Mass Management Module of NHVAS includes a Route Compliance Standard, which ensures that operators and drivers plan their trips and determine that an approved route is available before commencing the journey. No other state has this Standard.

In accordance with mutual recognition principles, vehicles accredited in other states under the Mass Management Module of NHVAS or Victorian Mass Management Scheme (Pilot) Program, are eligible to operate in South Australia under the terms and conditions detailed in the current South Australian Gazette Notice titled 'Concessional Mass Limits for Vehicles Accredited in the Mass Management Module of the National Heavy Vehicle Accreditation Scheme (NHVAS)', provided the driver:

- has determined that the trip will not require travel on any of the bridge structures listed in the Gazette Notice; and

- has recorded the mass and route details on a Route Compliance Certificate and signed the document; and
- carries the Certificate in the vehicle when operating at Concessional Mass Limits; and
- produces the Certificate if requested by a DTEI Transport Safety Compliance Office or Police Officer when operating in South Australia; and
- retains the original copy of the Certificate for a period of not less than 12 months from the date it is signed, for auditing purposes.

A new certificate must be completed for each journey. For convenience, operators can photocopy blank copies of the Route Compliance Certificate.

Note: The requirement to complete and carry the Route Compliance Certificate does not apply to Federally Registered Vehicles.

FEDERALLY REGISTERED VEHICLES

CML is also available for vehicles registered under *the Interstate Road Transport Act 1985*. Operators need to familiarise themselves with the requirements of the Act and Regulations.

Vehicles registered under this Act will be able to operate in South Australia at CML, subject to:

- compliance with the *Interstate Road Transport Act 1985*;
- accreditation in an approved Mass Management Accreditation Scheme.

OTHER INFORMATION

Further information (including entry requirements) relating to the Mass Management Module of NHVAS can be obtained by contacting DTEI Heavy Vehicle Accreditation & Audit Unit on telephone (08) 8260 0005 or facsimile (08) 8260 0268.

Documentation relating to NHVAS and the current Gazette Notice are available on the DTEI web site located at:

<http://www.transport.sa.gov.au/freight/road/accreditation/mass.asp>

Enquiries relating to CML should be directed to DTEI, Vehicle Permits Team at Regency Park, phone 1300 882 249.

**Manager, Policy & Projects
Transport Safety Regulation
June 2006**