

Concessional Mass Limits

INFORMATION UPDATE

Transport operators in Victoria are able to access Concessional Mass Limits (CML), which provides additional general access mass benefits, for operators accredited under the National Heavy Vehicle Accreditation Scheme (NHVAS), Mass Management module.

Introduction

Austroroads has reviewed its enforcement guidelines and replaced the former National Association of Australian State Road Authorities (NAASRA) 'administrative tolerance' for mass with a Measurement Adjustment based solely on the basis of weighing equipment accuracy and site characteristics. This effectively reduced on-road general mass limits from 1 July 2006.

Concessional Mass Limits

Concessional Mass Limits (CML) enables accredited operators to operate (generally) up to the former NAASRA tolerance levels.

To be eligible for CML, operators need to be accredited under the National Heavy Vehicle Accreditation Scheme (NHVAS) Mass Management Module.

Mass limits for CML are set at 5% above GML, subject to:

- A maximum of 1 tonne for a vehicle or vehicle combination with an allowable gross mass not exceeding 55 tonnes;
- A maximum of 2 tonnes for vehicle combinations with an allowable gross mass exceeding 55 tonnes;
- An upper limit on axle and axle group mass as given in the table of Concessional Mass Limits; and
- The operator or owner of the vehicle implementing an auditable maintenance system for the vehicle's suspension.

Suspension Maintenance

A new requirement to maintain a vehicle's suspension system (Standard 8) has been added to NHVAS Mass Management accreditation in recognition that road wear can be influenced by the condition of the vehicle's suspension system.

The new Standard 8 requires all accredited vehicles, including trailers supplied by other parties, to have their suspension systems maintained and replaced according to the manufacturer's (or a qualified mechanical engineer's) specification. Operators who have vehicles with air suspensions should refer to the Australian Road Transport Suppliers Association (ARTSA) Air Suspension Code.

Hired Trailers

Where a hired trailer is hauled by a mass accredited operator, a certificate of compliance stating that the suspension of the trailer has been maintained equivalent to the new 'Standard 8' must accompany the trailer and be produced if requested. This will require the trailer owner to have an auditable maintenance system that demonstrates the vehicle's suspension has been maintained to 'Standard 8'.

Hire trailers that do not have a certificate of compliance are not eligible for CML.

Access Restrictions

Operators of vehicles at CML have access to the same network as currently applies to the particular vehicle class.


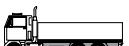

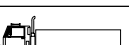


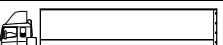

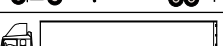
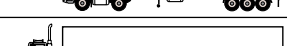
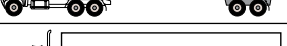

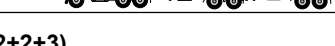

Other Requirements

Heavy vehicles must not exceed manufacturers' ratings and must comply with the axle spacing formulae appropriate to General Mass Limits.

Operating condition

A copy of the Victorian Government Gazette Notice relating to CML or a copy of this information sheet must be carried in the vehicle. Heavy vehicle operators travelling into a State or Territory where there is a requirement to carry their respective Gazette Notice (or equivalent) will need to obtain a copy of the Gazette Notice from the relevant State or Territory.

Vehicle Type Mass Limits Schedule

Vehicle Type	Concessional Mass Limits for NHVAS					
	Mass Accredited Vehicles					
	Max. Steer	Max. Single Axle	Max. Tandem Axle	Max. Tri-Axle	Max. Trailer	Max. Gross
Rigid (2) (1+1) 	6.00	9.00				15.00
Rigid (3) (1+2) 	6.00		17.00			23.00
Rigid (4) (2+2) NLS 	10.00		17.00			27.00
Rigid (4) (2+2) LS 	11.00		17.00			28.00
Rigid (3) & T (1+1) 	6.00		17.00		18.00	41.00
Rigid (3) & T (1+2) 	6.00		17.00		21.00	43.50
Artic (1+1+1) 	6.00	9.00				24.00
Artic (1+1+2) 	6.00	9.00	17.00			32.00
Artic (1+1+3) 	6.00	9.00		21.00		36.00
Artic (1+2+2) 	6.00		17.00			40.00
Artic (1+2+3) 	6.00		17.00	21.00		43.50
B Double (1+2+2+2) 	6.00		17.00			57.00*
B Double (1+2+2+3) 	6.00		17.00	21.00		61.00*
B Double (1+2+3+3) 	6.00		17.00	21.00		64.50*

* Vehicle may only travel on approved B-doubles routes.

For further information: Please visit www.vicroads.vic.gov.au. Telephone: 13 11 71