



# Concessional mass limits

June 2006

From 1 July 2006, transport operators in NSW will be able to access Concessional Mass Limits (CML). CML allows those eligible to operate at increased mass limits compared to statutory limits.

## Who is eligible for CML?

Only those transport operators accredited under the mass management module of the National Heavy Vehicle Accreditation Scheme (NHVAS) are eligible to operate under CML. Continual maintenance of a vehicle's suspension is now a requirement for NHVAS accreditation.

Further information regarding enrolling in NHVAS is available from [www.rta.nsw.gov.au/heavyvehicles](http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/heavyvehicles), by calling 9843 3851, or email [heavyvehicleaccreditation@rta.nsw.gov.au](mailto:heavyvehicleaccreditation@rta.nsw.gov.au)

There are some vehicles and combinations that are not eligible for CML, for safety reasons or because they can already operate at axle loads higher than the CML limits. They are:

- Pig trailers or a combination containing one or more pig trailers.
- Truck and dog trailer combinations operating under the General Class 3 Truck and Dog Trailer Combination Notice 2005.
- Special Purpose Vehicles, an agricultural machine or agricultural implement, a low loader, a low loader dolly and a low loader, a jinker, or a low loader dolly and a jinker.
- 'Complying Bus' (as defined by the Mass, Loading & Access Regulation), an ultra-low floor bus, or an articulated ultra-low floor bus, or a bus licensed to carry standing passengers.
- Vehicles or combinations operating under Higher Mass Limits.

- Vehicle or combination operating under any other permit, Notice or other exemption that allows axle or axle group loads above those specified in Table 1 of Schedule 1 to the *Road Transport (Mass, Loading and Access) Regulation 2005*. This table contains axle group general mass limits.

## Operating conditions

In addition to being NHVAS accredited, vehicles wishing to operate at CML must also carry a copy of the CML Notice. This is available from [www.rta.nsw.gov.au/heavyvehicles](http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/heavyvehicles).

From 1 January 2007, any NHVAS accredited operator must have in place systems for ensuring that all vehicles they operate, including trailers supplied by other parties, have their suspension systems maintained according to manufacturer's or a qualified mechanical engineer's specification – and taking into account the Australian Road Transport Suppliers' Association (ARTSA) Air Suspension Code.

## What are the CML limits?

Gross vehicle mass limits for vehicles eligible to operate under CML are set at 5% above existing General Mass Limits, subject to:

- A maximum 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.

## Examples of CML gross mass limits include:

- 6 axle semi trailer may operate up to 43.5 tonnes.
- 9 axle B-Doubles may operate up to 64.5 tonnes.
- 19 metre 7 axle general access B-Doubles may operate up to 51.0 tonnes.
- 19 metre 7 axle restricted access B-Doubles on approved B-Double routes may operate up to 57.0 tonnes.
- 3 axle rigid truck may operate up to 23.0 tonnes.

An upper limit on axle and group mass as given in the table below. The total mass of a vehicle or combination cannot exceed the sum of its axle loads or its GVM or GCM (as applicable).

AXLE OR AXLE GROUP	ALLOWABLE MASS
TANDEM AXLE GROUP Fitted with single tyres with section width of: (a) less than 375mm. (b) 375mm or more but less than 450mm. (c) 450mm or more.	<b>11.5 tonnes</b> <b>13.8 tonnes</b> <b>14.5 tonnes</b>
TANDEM AXLE GROUP Fitted with single tyres on one axle and dual tyres on the other axle.	<b>13.5 tonnes</b>
TANDEM AXLE – dual tyres	<b>17.0 tonnes</b>
TRI-AXLE – dual tyres, single tyres with section width of at least 375mm, or a combination of those tyres.	<b>21.0 tonnes</b>

## Where may CML vehicles travel

No additional route restrictions apply under CML. Operators eligible for CML may travel on all roads, except where prohibited by a load limit specified for a road, bridge or causeway by a sign or notice.



Where can I find out more information?



Visit the RTA website [www.rta.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au)

Email the RTA on [compliance\\_and\\_enforcement@rta.nsw.gov.au](mailto:compliance_and_enforcement@rta.nsw.gov.au)