

AS 3996:2019 · ACCESS COVERS & GRATES

Load class guide.

Every access cover, pit lid and grate in Australia carries a load class — a letter from A to G that says what can safely drive over it. Here is what each one means.

CLASS	WHERE IT GOES	WHEEL LOAD	SERVICEABILITY	ULTIMATE
 A EXTRA LIGHT	People and bikes only Footpaths, walkways and landscaped areas closed to vehicles.	330 kg	6.7 kN	10 kN
 B LIGHT	Cars and light vehicles, slow speed Driveways, footpaths open to vehicles, livestock areas. Not for trucks.	2,670 kg	53 kN	80 kN
 C MEDIUM	Slow-moving commercial vehicles Malls, car parks, service areas and low-speed access ways.	5,000 kg	100 kN	150 kN
 D HEAVY	Full commercial traffic at road speed Road carriageways and any area open to commercial vehicles.	8,000 kg	160 kN	240 kN
 E EXTRA HEAVY	Very heavy wheel loads Docks, freight handling areas and aircraft pavements.	13,700 kg	267 kN	400 kN
 F EXTRA HEAVY	Higher wheel loads Docks, wharves and aircraft pavements carrying heavier loads again.	20,000 kg	400 kN	600 kN
 G EXTRA HEAVY	Highest wheel loads Docks, wharves and airport runways. The heaviest class in the standard.	30,000 kg	600 kN	900 kN

Wheel load

The weight of one wheel the cover is expected to carry. A guide to vehicle type, not a limit.

Serviceability

The everyday working load it carries without damage. Two-thirds of the ultimate figure.

Ultimate

The maximum load it is tested to before failure. A test figure, not a working limit.

Reading kN

Kilonewtons measure force. One kN is roughly the weight of 100 kg on the ground.

THE ONE RULE

Selecting the class is the **designer's responsibility**. Where there is any doubt, AS 3996 directs that **the stronger class be chosen**. Remember that braking, cornering and turning concentrate load well beyond a straight, steady wheel — and a footpath beside a truck entry is not really a footpath.

Load values are those set out in AS 3996:2019, published by Standards Australia. Nominal wheel loads are for guidance only. Class B design loads exceed the AS 5100.2 footway requirement; Class D exceeds the AS 5100.2 W80 wheel load requirement. Internationally, EN 124 and EN 1433 run A to F — EN Class F and AS Class G are both tested to 900 kN.

Not sure which class you need?

Convic Australia supplies pits, lids, covers and grates across the class range — including Stronglite, our Australian-made composite lid range. Talk to us before you order.

(03) 9464 1655

sales@convicaustralia.com.au
convicaustralia.com.au