



## STATEMENT ON THE REVISED AS 3996 -2019

The Grates and Access Covers Alliance (GACA) welcomes the publication of AS 3996 – 2019 Access Covers and Grates.

AS3996 is a performance-based Standard that provides manufacturers and suppliers with specifications to meet, and in turn, provides designers, purchasers and installers peace of mind they are using a complying product. Access covers and grates are used predominantly in the construction industry for manholes and pits for various industries which include but are not limited to gas, electrical, sewer and drainages entry points. Not only is the long-term performance of covers and grates critical to the operating efficiency of roads and pavements, but also to the durability of building infrastructure, protection of public health and safety and protection of our environment.

Standards Australia Technical Committee, CE-029 *Access covers and grates*, undertook a review of AS3996-2006 which has resulted in the now published AS 3996-2019. The committee included industry representatives, GACA members, asset owners and Government instrumentalities. The following changes have been made in the new standard:

- Clearer definitions on material allowing for innovation whilst incorporating the newer materials available in the market,
- Clarity and consistency around wheel loadings,
- A clearer understanding on design and performance life with an updated testing regime, and
- Methods to avoid traffic dislodgement.

For your copy of the standard visit Standards Australia's webstore store [here](#).

Whilst AS 3996-2019 is not yet called up in the National Construction Code, it does have applicability for the industry from the date of publication. GACA, recommends a transition period of 18 months apply. This will allow the supply chains to readjust by allowing the selling out of old stock and revision to applicable designs. New products manufactured to AS3996:2019 are expected on the market by the end of 2020.

GACA represents the manufacturers and suppliers of Access Covers and Grates in Australia. GACA is committed to educating the industry of the risks associated with using non-confirming products, providing a level playing field whilst ensuring Australian Infrastructure is not only safe, but built to last. More information about GACA can be found [here](#).