

UNDERSTANDING THE ANSI/SCTE 77 2023

ARE TIER 22 HANDHOLES REALLY STRONGER THAN TIER 15?



Underground enclosure integrity is important for protecting your critical infrastructure as well as safe-guarding the general public that interact with these enclosures. Selecting the right enclosure is important during the evaluation phase, and we want to shed new light on some assumptions around load performance to help you make the best informed decisions for your business.

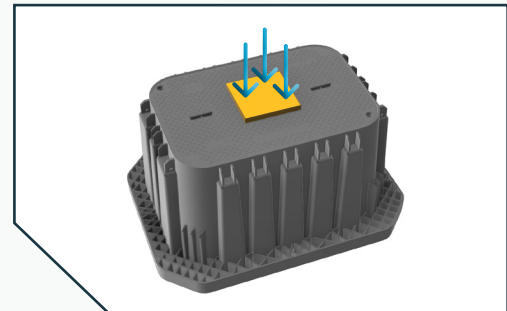
One of the common assumptions in the underground enclosure space is that Tier 22 means that a product is stronger than a Tier 15. Logic would agree, as there is a heavier load applied to pass a Tier 22 test, but did you know *its possible that a product can pass Tier 22 testing but fail Tier 15 testing? IT'S TRUE!*

The reason this can be true is how these products are tested. They are tested with different sized plates as shown in the diagrams to the right, which disperse the load differently across an identical enclosure from one test to the other, making it sometimes more difficult to pass Tier 15 than Tier 22 due to the pointed and direct force in a centralized area.

We feel it is important for your assets to be protected under both circumstances which is why our Maximus™ HD and Legacy Series™ products exceed both tests independently, and we mark as such to eliminate any doubt.

Next time you're specifying handholes, ensure you are covered for by ensuring your Tier 22 product can also meet Tier 15—independently.

TIER 15 COVER VERTICAL LOAD TEST SCENARIO



Tier 15 testing uses a 10" x 10" steel plate (illustrated in yellow) to apply the 22,500 lb. load from the hydraulic press, simulating the wheelbase of a passenger vehicle interacting with the enclosure.

TIER 22 COVER VERTICAL LOAD TEST SCENARIO



Tier 22 testing uses a larger 10" x 20" steel plate (illustrated in yellow) to apply the 33,750 lb. load from the hydraulic press, simulating a wheelbase of a heavy truck interacting with the enclosure, and dispersing the load more evenly across the cover.