

APPLYING FOR A BUNKERING OPERATOR PERMIT

What does it entail to get a Bunkering Operator Permit for the distribution, sale, exportation or disposal in any other manner of bunkers, or for any other related activity?

A person or company shall not be entitled to a Bunkering Operator Permit issued by the Authority for Transport in Malta (Authority) to carry out bunkering operations **unless** he is in possession of a valid Authorisation issued in terms of the Bunkering (Authorisation) Regulations (S.L. 423.42) by the Regulator for Energy & Water Services (REWS) established under Article 5 of the REWS Act.

The Bunkering Operator Permit is issued in terms of the Dangerous Cargo Ships, Marine Terminals and Facilities and Bunkering Regulations (S.L. 499.12).

To obtain a Bunkering Operator Permit, one must be:

- At least 18 years of age;
- A Maltese citizen or Citizen of an EU member state; and
- Holder of a residential address in Malta or alternatively have a local authorised representative.

STEPS TO APPLY FOR A BUNKERING OPERATOR PERMIT:

➤ **RESEARCH INFORMATION:**

- Visit REWS, Zentrum Business Centre, Level 1, Mdina Road Qormi QRM 9010 or call on +356 2295 5000
- Visit REWS's website: <https://www.rews.org.mt/#/en/home>
- Visit the Authority, Malta Transport Centre, Commercial Vessels Unit, Triq Pantar, Ħal Lija, LJA 2021 or call +356 2555 4500.
- For Bunkering operations including commercial vessels, visit the Authority's website, Commercial Vessel Operations, code of Practice for the Safety of Commercial Vessels:
<https://www.transport.gov.mt/maritime/local-waters/commercial-vessel-operations-111>

FIRST TIME APPLICATION:

- Applications can be obtained from REWS, Authority's offices or downloaded from the Authority's website:
<https://www.transport.gov.mt/maritime/local-waters/commercial-vessel-operations-111>
- Once filled in and completed, the application form must be submitted to REWS.
- Upon receiving clearance from REWS, the Authority will start processing the relative application for the issuance of such permit.

➤ **Documents to be submitted for applicants operating a Marine Terminal:**

- Marine Terminal / Facility Operators shall provide full details and an updated information regarding safety and pollution prevention / control, including the relevant operational data, equipment and personnel resources, general and specific procedures, policies and plans in respect of firefighting, emergency and pollution prevention/control including any other information as required in Regulation 70 and 71.
- Oil Transfer Hose Report and Test Certificate/s (Visual inspection and Pressure testing);
- Insurance prerequisites for marine terminal or facility operators (as per Regulation 73);
- General Pollution control and removal requirements (as per Regulation 74);
- General emergency and firefighting requirements (as per Regulation 75);
- General operational requirements and resources (as per Regulation 76);
- Pollution prevention and control requirements (as per Regulation 77);
- Safety and fire/emergency requirements (as per Regulation 78);

➤ **Documents to be submitted for applicants operating Bunker Barges:**

- The Barge owner shall provide the Authority with copies of the designated Master and crew members Certificates of Competency, Dangerous Cargo Endorsements and Records of Sea Service.
- All the documentary and data requirements contained in the Commercial Vessels Regulations (S.L. 499.23), accessible through the following link:
- Oil Transfer Hose report and Test Certificate/s (visual Inspection and Pressure testing).
- An adequate valid Insurance cover in respect of third-party damage, marine environment pollution damage and clearance of pollution liabilities.

➤ **Documents to be submitted for applicants operating with Road Tankers:**

- Copy of a valid Road Licence.
- Copy of Vehicle logbook.
- For post 2004 registered vehicles, a copy of the ADR Compliance Certificate for each vehicle in the case of ADR certified vehicles or and ADR Certificate exempt letter for vehicles that do not have an ADR certificate.
- An adequate valid Insurance cover in respect of third-party damage, marine environment pollution damage and clearance of pollution liabilities.
- Proof of an agreement with a specialised organisation, recognised by the Authority, to provide an effective “**on call**” service for the immediate control and removal from both sea and land of any potential consequences of the most environmentally hazardous operations that can be undertaken.
- Oil Transfer Hose Report and Test Certificate/s (visual inspection and pressure testing).
- A declaration issued by a Government Appointed Surveyor confirming that the road tanker is equipped with the following:
 - Portable firefighting equipment (Regulation 24)
 - Dip trays (Regulation 38)
 - Absorbent Material (regulation 38)
 - Containment booms (Regulation 65)

RENEWAL OF A BUNKERING OPERATOR PERMIT:

- All Documentation for renewal including the respective application form must be submitted to the Authority at least one (1) month prior to the expiry of the respective Bunkering Operator Permit. The relative application form to renew such permit can be accessed through the following link.
<https://www.transport.gov.mt/maritime/local-waters/commercial-vessel-operations-111>
- When an operator decides not to renew a Bunkering Operator Permit, a written declaration must be submitted prior to the Permit’s expiry and stating the intention not to renew the Permit.

➤ **INFORMATION ON THE PROCESSES APPLICABLE TO BOTH INITIAL ISSUANCE AND RENEWAL OF A BUNKERING OPERATOR PERMIT:**

- The Authority notifies REWS that the Bunkering Operator Permit is in process and requests for any objection from their end prior to its finalisation and issue.
- Once all documents have been reviewed and approved by the Authority, the operator is requested to submit the original Bank Guarantee issued by a local bank recognised by the Authority, covering the amount of **€23,294.00**.
- Once the above documentation has been compiled and deemed compliant, the respective Bunkering Operator Permit will be issued for a maximum period of one (1) year. Upon issuance, the Authority will issue an invoice to the operator, allowing a period of seven (7) days for payment and collection of the Permit.

Fees:

- For a **First-Time** application i.e. New Bunkering Operator Permit;
 - Together with the annual fee, the operator must pay an initial processing fee which is equivalent to the annual fee.
- For the **Renewal** of a Bunkering Operator Permit the following procedure must be followed:
 - The Authority sends a renewal reminder, including the applicable application form, two (2) months prior its' expiry to inform the operator that the Permit is due to expire.
 - The operator submits the completed form, including any required documentation, to the Authority at least one (1) calendar month – as per Port Notice No 3 of 2019 – prior to the expiry date of such Permit in order for the Authority to process the renewal.
 - Once the Permit is renewed, the Authority issues a quotation / billing sheet to the operator with seven (7) days to effect payment and collect such Permit.
- The applicable fees for Bunkering Operator Permits may be viewed on the following link found on the Authority's website:
<https://www.transport.gov.mt/Port-Notice-03-of-2019.pdf-f5019>

ADDITIONAL LINKS:

- Code of Practice for the Safety of Commercial Vessels
<https://www.transport.gov.mt/Code-of-Practice-for-the-Safety-of-Commercial-Vessels-15th-edition-01-10-25.pdf-f11022>
- Dangerous Cargo Ships, Marine Terminals and Facilities and Bunkering Regulations (S.L. 499.12)
<https://legislation.mt/eli/sl/499.12/eng/pdf>
- Authority for Transport in Malta website – Appointment of Government Appointed Ship Surveyors
<https://www.transport.gov.mt/maritime/local-waters/commercial-vessel-operations-111>
- Authority for Transport in Malta's website – Bunkering Operator Permit application form (downloadable):
<https://www.transport.gov.mt/Commercial-Vessel-Certificate-Application-Form.pdf-f6934>