

APPLYING FOR A COMMERCIAL VESSEL CERTIFICATE

What does it entail to get a Commercial Vessel Certificate, for the carriage of cargo, equipment and passengers and other vessels employed in port services and the servicing of ships?

STEPS TO GET A COMMERCIAL VESSEL CERTIFICATE:

A Commercial Vessel Certificate is issued in accordance with the Code of Practice, latest edition accessible through the following link:

<https://www.transport.gov.mt/maritime/local-waters/commercial-vessel-operations-111>

APPLYING FOR A NEW COMMERCIAL VESSEL CERTIFICATE (CVC):

- Applications can be obtained from the Authority for Transport in Malta, Ports and Yachting Directorate, Commercial Vessels Unit, front desk or downloaded from Transport Malta's website thru the following link;

<https://www.transport.gov.mt/maritime/local-waters/commercial-vessels-operations-7651>

- An application for each craft must be submitted since all vessels used for commercial operations must be in possession of a Commercial Vessel Certificate. To obtain such certificate, the relevant documentation and certificates as listed on same form must be submitted together with the duly filled in application form.
Such documents include also, the Certificate of Class issued by a recognised classification society, a Certificate and Report of Survey issued by a Government Appointed Surveyor or any other equivalent certification from any other recognised entity according to the type of vessel (listed also on the application form)
- Commercial Vessel Certificates are only issued to vessels flagged in the EU, other EEA/EFTA countries and the UK. These vessels need a one-time "No Objection" letter from their Flag Administration to operate commercially within the territorial waters (12 NM) of Malta.
- In cases where the owner/s of vessel differ from the licence holder, a no objection letter issued by the registered owner giving the operator the right to operate with the registered vessel and list it under the respective Operator's License, must be provided.
- Once **full** submission of the requested documentation is provided, the Authority starts to vet the documents received. If everything is found satisfactory and in line with the requested requirements, documentation start to be processed, and a technical report is eventually issued stating that vessel is compliant and fit to operate commercially.
Based on this report, the respective Commercial Vessel Certificate (CVC) is eventually issued.
- A Vessel which is not suitable to be manned by single-handed operations, will also be issued with a Minimum Safe Manning Document valid for 5 years. This will also be reflected on the Commercial Vessel Certificate (CVC) being issued.
- Once the relative Commercial Vessel Certificate (CVC) is printed, the Authority issues a quotation / billing sheet to the licensed operator giving a time frame of 7 days; to effect payment and collect such certificate/s

RENEWAL OF A COMMERCIAL VESSEL CERTIFICATE:

- In terms of the Commercial Vessels Regulations (S.L. 499.23), client is advised that, the application form and all related supporting documentation are required to reach the Commercial Vessels Unit at least **one (1) calendar month before the expiry date of the certificate**, to allow adequate time for the processing and renewal of the certificate.
- To mitigate delays and facilitate the renewal process, the Authority advises that vessel surveys may be conducted up to three (3) months prior to the expiry date of the respective certificate, without altering the existing expiry date. This measure is intended to provide operators with adequate time to prepare and submit all required documentation in a timely manner for the renewal of the respective certificate.

- Once the full documentation is submitted, the Authority proceeds with the evaluation of the documentation received. If the documentation is found to be satisfactory, a technical report is issued confirming that the vessel is compliant and fit to operate commercially. Subsequently, the respective Commercial Vessel Certificate (CVC) is renewed.
- The validity of the certificate shall be aligned with the expiry date established by the Government Appointed Surveyor, provided that such validity does not exceed one (1) year and is not less than six (6) months
- Upon issuance of the renewed Commercial Vessel Certificate (CVC), the Authority shall provide the licensed operator with a quotation/billing sheet, allowing a period of seven (7) days for payment to be effected and for the certificate to be collected. In the absence of payment within the stipulated timeframe, and unless duly justified, the certificate shall be subject to cancellation.
- The validity of the Commercial Vessel Certificate commences as from the date of collection.

Fees:

- Authority for Transport in Malta website – Fees and charges issued under the Commercial Vessels Regulations S.L. 499.23
<https://www.transport.gov.mt/maritime/local-waters/commercial-vessels-operations-7651>

ADDITIONAL LINKS:

- Code of Practice for the Safety of Commercial Vessels:
<https://www.transport.gov.mt/maritime/local-waters/commercial-vessels-operations-7651>
- Authority for Transport in Malta website –Commercial Vessel Certificate application form (downloadable):
<https://www.transport.gov.mt/maritime/local-waters/commercial-vessels-operations-7651>
- Authority for Transport in Malta website – Appointment of Government Appointed Ship Surveyors
<https://www.transport.gov.mt/maritime/local-waters/commercial-vessels-operations-7651>
- Commercial Vessel Regulations S.L. 499.23
<https://legislation.mt/eli/sl/499.23/eng/pdf>