

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, Commercial Vessels Unit, Ports Commercial, or downloaded from Transport Malta's website thru the following link;
https://www.transport.gov.mt/CVC-Application-form_Sept-2025.pdf-f11010
- 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:**

- Two (2) months prior the expiry of the respective Commercial Vessel Certificate (CVC), a renewal notice together with a copy of application form is sent to the operator as a reminder.
- Client is instructed that as per the Commercial Vessels Regulations (S.L. 499.23), the application form and the related documentation must reach the Commercial Vessels Unit *"at least one (1) calendar month before the expiry of certificate"* to have ample time to process for the renewal of certificate
- Once full submission of documentation is done, the authority vets the received documentation and if found satisfactory, a technical report is eventually issued stating that vessel is compliant and fit to operate commercially. Eventually the respective Commercial Vessel Certificate (CVC) is renewed.
- Once the renewed 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
- The validity of the Commercial Vessel Certificate commences as from the date of collection.

➤ **Fees:**

- Fees charged for such certificate may be viewed on the following link found on Transport Malta'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/maritime/local-waters/commercial-vessel-operations-111>
- Authority for Transport in Malta website –Commercial Vessel Certificate application form (downloadable):
https://www.transport.gov.mt/CVC-Application-Form_Sept-2025.pdf-f11010
- 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 website – Fees and charges issued under the Commercial Vessels Regulations S.L. 499.23
<https://www.transport.gov.mt/Port-Notice-03-of-2019.pdf-f5019>
- Commercial Vessel Regulations S.L. 499.23
<https://legislation.mt/eli/sl/499.23/eng/pdf>