

## HOW TO OBTAIN A COMMERCIAL VESSEL OPERATOR LICENCE

### What does it entail to get a Commercial Vessel Operator Licence, for the hire or reward of a vessel?

To obtain a Commercial Vessel Operator's Licence, one must be:

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

### **STEPS TO APPLY FOR A COMMERCIAL VESSEL OPERATOR'S LICENCE:**

A Commercial Vessel Operator's Licence 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-vessels-operations-7651>

### **APPLYING FOR A COMMERCIAL VESSEL OPERATOR'S LICENCE:**

- 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/maritime/local-waters/commercial-vessels-operations-7651>
- All craft listed under such Licence must be in possession of a valid Commercial Vessel Certificate issued by the Authority.
- Such licence may be issued to individuals or companies who intend to operate vessels for hire or reward within the Maltese territorial waters up to 12NM.
- In cases where applicant is an individual the following document must be submitted together with application form:
- *Conduct Certificate from the Commissioner of Police;*
- If the operator is a Company, the following documents must be submitted together with the application form:
- *A copy of the ID card (back and front) of the authorised person/ legal representative, representing such company.*
- *a copy of the full Memorandum and Articles of Association issued by the Malta Business Registry.*
- Once the above documentation is vetted and found satisfactory, the relative Commercial Vessel Operator's Licence is issued for a period of 1 (one) year. Once licence is issued, the Authority issues an invoice to the respective client giving a time frame of 7 days to effect payment and collect such licence.

### **RENEWAL OF A COMMERCIAL VESSEL OPERATOR LICENCE:**

- 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 licence**, to allow adequate time for the processing and renewal of the credential
- Upon issuance of the renewed Commercial Vessel Operator Licence (CVOL), the Authority shall provide the licensed operator with a quotation/billing sheet, allowing a period of seven (7) days for payment to be affected 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 Operator Licence commences as from the date of collection

### **Fees:**

- For a **First-Time** application i.e., New Licence.  
Together with the annual fee, operator is to pay an initial processing fee which is equivalent to the annual fee.
- Fees charged for such licences 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-vessels-operations-7651>
- Authority for Transport in Malta website –Commercial Vessel Operator License application form (downloadable):  
<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>