

HOW TO OBTAIN A WATERSPORTS OPERATOR LICENCE

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

To obtain a WaterSports 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 WATERSPORTS OPERATOR'S LICENCE:

Applications may be obtained from the Authority for Transport in Malta, Commercial Vessels Unit, Ports & Yachting Directorate, Triq Pantar, Lija, or downloaded from Transport Malta's website via the following link:

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

APPLYING FOR A WATERSPORTS OPERATOR'S LICENCE:

- All craft listed under such licence must each be in possession of a valid Commercial Vessel Certificate issued by the Authority.
- Such licence may be issued to individuals or companies intending to operate watersports vessels for hire or reward within Maltese territorial waters up to 12NM. The licence may be issued in the name of either a company or an individual;
 - In cases where the applicant is an individual, the following document must be submitted together with the application form:
 - a. *Recent Conduct Certificate issued by the Commissioner of Police;*
 - If the operator is a company, the following documents must be submitted together with the application form:
 - a. *A copy of the ID card (front and back) of the authorised person/legal representative representing the company, together with a Power of Attorney or a No Objection Letter signed by all company directors.*
 - b. *A copy of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, clearly indicating that one of the company's objectives includes the intended commercial operations.*
- *Together with the above documentation, the applicant must also submit the following:*
 - a. *A detailed Operational Manual clearly outlining the proposed method of operations, including the intended areas of operation, the equipment/craft/vessels to be used, and how such operations will be conducted.*
 - b. *In cases where the applicant intends to occupy any part of public land, the necessary encroachment permit from the Lands Authority must first be obtained prior to initiating the application process with Transport Malta. A copy of such permit shall be submitted together with the application form on an annual basis.*
 - c. *Where operations are intended to be conducted from a private outlet, written authorisation from the property owner must be obtained and submitted together with the application form on an annual basis.*
- Once the above documentation is fully submitted, reviewed and found satisfactory, the relative Watersports Operator's Licence is issued, valid for a maximum period of one (1) year. Once the licence is issued, the Authority issues an invoice to the respective client for payment, which is to be settled within one (1) week prior to collection of the licence;

RENEWAL OF A WATERSPORTS 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 license**, to allow adequate time for the processing and renewal of the credential
- Upon issuance of the renewed WaterSports Operator Licence, 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 WaterSports Operator Licence commences as from the date of collection

Fees:

- Fees are charged as per type of operation and 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 –WaterSports Operator Licence 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>
- Small Ships Regulations S.L 499.52
<https://legislation.mt/eli/sl/499.52/eng>