

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 for a Bunker Operator Permit issued by Transport Malta 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

To obtain a Bunkering Operator Permit, 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 BUNKERING OPERATOR'S PERMIT:**

➤ **RESEARCH INFORMATION:**

- Visit the Regulator for Energy & Water Services (REWS), Zentrum Business Centre, Level 1, Mdina Road Qormi QRM 9010 or call on +356 2295 5000
- Visit the Regulator for Energy & Water Services (REWS) website: <https://www.rews.org.mt/#/en/home>
- Visit Malta Transport Centre, Commercial Vessels Unit, Triq Pantar, Hal Lija, LJA 2021 or call+356 21222203
- For Bunkering operations including commercial vessels, visit Transport Malta 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 the Regulator for Energy & Water Services (REWS), Transport Malta's offices or even downloaded from Transport Malta website:
<https://www.transport.gov.mt/bop-application-cvu.pdf-f8967>
- Once filled in and completed, application form must be submitted to Regulator for Energy & Water Services (REWS)
- Upon receiving clearance from the Regulator for Energy & Water Services (REWS), the Authority for Transport in Malta, starts processing the relative application for the issuance of such permit.

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

- 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 are as follows:**

- 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 2002, as amended, link below:

<https://legislation.mt/eli/sl/499.23/eng/pdf>

- 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:
 - i. Portable firefighting equipment (Regulation 24)
 - ii. Dip trays (Regulation 38)
 - iii. Absorbent Material (regulation 38)
 - iv. Containment booms (Regulation 65)
- When all documents are vetted and confirmed by the authority, client is requested to send an original Bank guarantee issued by a local bank recognised by the Authority of €23,294.00.
- The Authority for Transport in Malta notifies the Regulator for Energy & Water Services (REWS) that permit is in process to be issued and requests for any objection from their end prior the finalisation and issuance of the relative Bunkering Operator Permit.
- Fees for such permit are calculated as per Schedule (regulation 90) of the Dangerous Cargo Ships, Marine Terminals and Facilities and Bunkering.

➤ **Renewal of a Bunker Operator’s Permit:**

- The Authority sends a renewal reminder two (2) months prior the expiry of the Bunker Operator’s Permit to inform the respective operator that the permit is due to expire. The relative application form in order to renew such permit can be accessed through the following link.

<https://www.transport.gov.mt/bop-application-cvu.pdf-f8967>

- In case where the client decides not to renew the respective bunkering operator permit, s/he must submit in writing a declaration stating that s/he does not intend to renew the respective operator permit.

- Once the above documentation is vetted and found satisfactory, the relative Bunkering Operator’s Permit 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.

➤ **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.
- For the **Renewal** of a Commercial Vessel Operator's Licence the following procedure is followed;
 - The Authority sends a renewal reminder including also the necessary application form, 2 (two) months prior its' expiry to inform the respective client that the licence is due to expire.
 - Eventually, client submits the completed **duly filled in** form including any required documentation to the Authority minimum of 1 calendar month – as per Port Notice No 3 of 2019 prior to the expiry date of such licence in order for the Authority to process such renewal;
- Once licence is renewed, the Authority issues a quotation / billing sheet to the respective client giving a time frame of 7 days to effect payment and collect such licence;
- 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 – 14th Edition:
https://www.transport.gov.mt/14th-edition-of-code-of-practice_October_2021.pdf-f6917
- Commercial Vessel Regulations S.L. 499.23
<https://legislation.mt/eli/sl/499.23/eng>
- Authority for Transport in Malta website - Commercial Vessel Operator's License application form (downloadable):
<https://www.transport.gov.mt/Commercial-Vessel-Certificate-Application-Form.pdf-f6934>