



PORTS AND YACHTING DIRECTORATE

Transport Malta

Malta Transport Centre
Marsa, MRS 1917
Malta

Tel: (356) 2122 2203
Fax: (356) 2125 0365
Email: info.tm@transport.gov.mt

www.transport.gov.mt

Port Notice No. 02 of 2025

**To: Ship Owners and Operators
Ship Agents
Ship Masters
Marine Terminals and Marine Facilities**

Minimum Towage Requirements – Revision 3.0

All concerned are advised that with immediate effect the Towage Requirements – Revision 3.0, as specified in Annexes I and II attached to this Notice, shall apply within Maltese ports and approaches.

The Authority reminds all that towage is regulated in terms of the Authority for Transport in Malta Act (Cap. 499) and the Towage (Tariff of Rates) Regulations (S.L. 499. 49) of the Laws of Malta. Towage shall be under the supervision and regulation of the Authority at all times.

The following vessels, having bow thruster/s and stern thruster/s and multiple engines or any other type of propulsion that offers added manoeuvring capabilities, are normally exempt from minimum tug requirements, as further detailed in the Annexes to this Port Notice, subject to the Master/Pilot Information Exchange and the vessel's passage plan taking into account the prevailing weather circumstances and conditions:

- Cruise liners;
- Scheduled liner Ro-Ro and Ro-Pax vessels;
- Authorised bunker barges and authorised High Speed Craft (HSC); and
- Highly manoeuvrable vessels such as AHTS, PSV, seismic survey vessels, dive support vessels and cable layers.

The Authority may, under specific circumstances and on a written application, exempt a specific vessel from these minimum tug requirements.

Furthermore, in terms of the Harbour Towage Agreement, it is to be reminded that Tug Malta Ltd is the appointed exclusive harbour towage service provider, including tug assistance from one port to another, in the port areas defined in Part I and Part II of the Schedule to the Ports and Shipping Act (Cap. 352) and their approaches, and other emergency services.

In case of disabled vessels, cold moves or exceptional circumstances, including but not limited to, inclement weather, impracticable approaches, confined terminals and vessel displacement to power ratio, Tug and Pilot requirements may be increased based on an assessment conducted by the Ship's Master and the Pilot and confirmed by the Harbour Master.

Tug/s over and above the minimum tug requirements as set out in the attached Annexes may be ordered on a standby basis. This also applies to vessels that are exempt from these requirements. Tug/s ordered on a standby basis will be deployed to the area of operation and will be charged at a rate of 50% of the



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Towage (Tariff of Rates) Regulations, subject that the tug/s is/are not requested to take an active part in the ship assist operation. In the case tug/s is/are requested to assist during the ship assist operation, the full rate as per Towage (Tariff of Rates) Regulations shall be levied.

Day light restrictions apply in the case of specific berths and docking operations.

The Authority reserves the right to alter tug requirements as directed by the Harbour Master.

Port Notice No. 04 of 2023 is hereby being repealed.

Capt. Fritz Farrugia
Chief Officer & Harbour Master
Ports & Yachting Directorate

24th April 2025

Annex I

Minimum Towage Requirement – Revision 3.0

Grand Harbour (Port of Valletta) Terminals

Ship's Length	Berthing	Unberthing	Ship's Length	Berthing	Unberthing	Ship's Length	Berthing	Unberthing
Ricasoli Tank Cleaning Farm			Palumbo Shipyards - Wharfs Quays*			Palumbo Shipyards - Docks*		
Up to 100m	1 tug (i)	1 tug (i)	Up to 100m	1 tug (i)	1 tug (i)	Up to 100m	1 tug (ii)	1 tug (ii)
>101m – 140m	2 tugs (i)	2 tugs (i)	>101m – 200m	2 tugs	2 tugs	>101m – 200m	2 tugs (ii)	1 tug (ii)
>141m – 200m	2 tugs	2 tugs	>201m – 239m	3 tugs (iii)	3 tugs (iii)	>201m – 239m	3 tugs (iii)	3 tugs (iii)
>201m – 239m	3 tugs (iii)	3 tugs (iii)	>240m	4 tugs (i)	4 tugs (i)	>240m – 299m	4 tugs (i)	4 tugs (i)
>240m	4 tugs	4 tugs				>300m	4 tugs (iv)	4 tugs (iv)
Ship's Length	Berthing	Unberthing	Ship's Length	Berthing	Unberthing	Ship's Length	Berthing	Unberthing
Bighi & Fish Market (on anchors)*			Menqa Basin			Pinto Wharfs & Deep-Water Quay Wharfs		
Up to 130m	1 tug	0 tugs	Up to 130m	2 tug (i)	1 tug	Up to 100m	0 tugs	0 tugs
>131m – 160m	2 tugs (i)	2 tugs (i)	>131m – 200m	2 tugs	2 tugs	>101m – 150m	1 tug	1 tug
>161m	2 tugs	2 tugs				>151m – 200m	2 tugs	2 tugs (i)
						>201m	3 tug (iii)	2 tugs (iii)
Ship's Length	Berthing	Unberthing	Ship's Length	Berthing	Unberthing	Ship's Length	Berthing	Unberthing
Malta Maritime Hub***			Fuel Wharf			Laboratory / Magazine / Lab S1 / S2		
Up to 100m	1 tug (i)	1 tug (i)	Up to 100m	0 tugs	0 tugs	Up to 100m	0 tugs	0 tugs
>101m – 170m	2 tugs	2 tugs (i)				>100m – 150m	1 tug (i)	1 tug (i)
>171m	3 tugs	2 tugs				>151m – 200m	2 tugs	2 tugs (i)
						>201m – 250m	3 tugs (i) (iii)	2 tugs
						>251m	3 tugs	3 tugs

Notes:

- (i) If a vessel has a functional bow thruster and /or stern thruster and favourable weather conditions allow, tug resources may be reduced by 1 (one) in line with Port Notice.
- (ii) In case of docking operations depending on the prevailing circumstances, additional tug resources may be used in line with Port Notice.
- (iii) Vessels with more than 40 metres of beam shall be assisted by 4 (four) tugs.
- (iv) Subject to favourable weather conditions and available sea room apply.

* Daylight restriction applies

*** Night-time manoeuvres limited to vessel fitted with bow and stern thruster/twin propellers

Annex II

Minimum Towage Requirement – Revision 3.0

Marsaxlokk Port (Malta Freeport Terminals)

Ship's Length	Terminal 1 West Quay		Terminal 1		Terminal 2 South	
	Berthing	Unberthing	Berthing	Unberthing	Berthing	Unberthing
Up to 130m	1 tug	1 tug (i)	1 tug	1 tug (i)	1 tug	1 tug (i)
>131m – 200m	2 tugs (i)	2 tugs (i)	2 tugs (i)	2 tugs (i)	2 tugs (i)	2 tugs (i)
>201m – 250m	2 tugs	2 tugs (i)	2 tugs	2 tugs (i)	2 tugs	2 tugs (i)
>251m – 299m or <70,000 GT	2 tugs	2 tugs	3 tugs (ii)	2 tugs	3 tugs (ii)	2 tugs
>300m or >70,000K GT	N/A	N/A	3 tugs	3 tugs	3 tugs	3 tugs
>400m	N/A	N/A	4 tugs (i)	3 tugs	4 tugs (i)	3 tugs
Ship's Length	Terminal 2 West Quay		Terminal 2 North			
	Berthing	Unberthing	Berthing	Unberthing		
Up to 130m	1 tug	1 tug (i)	1 tug	1 tug (1)		
>131m – 200m	2 tugs (i)	2 tugs(i)	2 tugs (i)	2 tugs(i)		
>201m – 250m	2 tugs	2 tugs (i)	2 tugs	2 tugs (i)		
>251m – 299m or <70,000 GT	2 tugs	2 tugs	2 tugs	2 tugs		
>300m or >70,000K GT	N/A	N/A	3 tugs	2 tugs		
>400m	N/A	N/A	4 tugs (i)	3 tugs		

Notes:

- (i) If a vessel has a functional bow thruster and /or stern thruster and favourable weather conditions allow, tug resources may be reduced by 1 (one) in line with Port Notice.
- (ii) Tug resources can be reduced by 1 (one), subject to the circumstances of the case.

Note: Vessels inbound for Malta Freeport with a draught deeper than 13.5m, shall be assisted by 3 (three) tugs.

* *Daylight restriction applies*

Annex II

Minimum Towage Requirement – Revision 3.0

Marsaxlokk Port Terminals

Ship's Length	Berthing	Unberthing	Ship's Length	Berthing	Unberthing	Ship's Length	Berthing	Unberthing
Has-Saptan Fuelling Dolphin *			Evos Terminal - Medserv Terminal			Delimara Power Station *		
Up to 130m	2 tug (i)	1 tug	Up to 130m	2 tug (i)	2 tug (i)	Up to 130m	2 tug (i)	2 tug (i)
>131m	2 tugs	2 tugs	>131m – 200m	2 tugs	2 tugs	>131m	2 tugs	2 tugs
			>201m	3 tugs	2 tugs			
Ship's Length	Berthing	Unberthing						
LNG Terminal*								
All	4 tugs	4 tugs						

Mġarr Port Terminals

Ship's Length	Berthing	Unberthing
Mġarr Harbour Quay no. 3 *		
Up to 80m	1 tug	1 tug (i)

Notes:

- (i) If a vessel has a functional bow thruster and /or stern thruster and favourable weather conditions allow, tug resources may be reduced by 1 (one) in line with Port Notice.
- * Daylight restriction applies