



**Transport Malta**

**PORT NOTICE NO. 04 OF 2026**

**PORTS AND YACHTING DIRECTORATE**

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

Malta Transport Centre  
Marsa, MRS 1917  
Malta

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

[www.transport.gov.mt](http://www.transport.gov.mt)

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### **Minimum Towage Requirements – Revision 5.0**

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All concerned are advised that with immediate effect the Towage Requirements – Revision 5.0 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 & 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 application, exempt a specific vessel/s 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, repair facilities, and vessel displacement to power ratio, Tug & 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



Towage (Tariff of Rates) Regulations, subject that the tug/s is/are not requested to take an active part in the ships 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.

All concerned are further informed that the requirements detailed in the Annexes to this Port Notice, including all footnotes and special conditions, are also available through the official 'Malta Port Towage Calculator' mobile application. This free tool provides instant, offline calculations of minimum tug requirements at all major terminals. It is designed to support masters, pilots, and agents in pre-arrival, shifting and departure planning, while helping ensure full regulatory compliance.

Port Notice No 02 of 2026 is hereby being repealed.



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

26<sup>th</sup> May 2026

## Annex I

### Minimum Towage Requirement - Revision 5.0 Grand Harbour (Port of Valletta) Terminals

Ship's Length	Berthing	Unberthing
<b>Ricasoli Tank Cleaning Farm*</b>		
Up to 100m	1 tug (i)	1 tug (i)
>101m-140m	2 tugs (i)	2 tugs (i)
>141m-200m	2 tugs	2 tugs
>201m-239m	3 tugs (iii)	3 tugs (iii)
>240m	4 tugs	4 tugs

Ship's Length	Berthing	Unberthing
<b>Bighi &amp; Fish Market (on anchors)*</b>		
Up to 130m	1 tug	0 tugs
>131m-160m	2 tugs (i)	2 tugs (i)
>161m	2 tugs	2 tugs

Ship's Length	Berthing	Unberthing
<b>Malta Maritime Hub***</b>		
Up to 100m	1 tug (i)	1 tug (i)
>101m-170m	2 tugs	2 tugs (i)
>171m	3 tugs	2 tugs

Ship's Length	Berthing	Unberthing
<b>Palumbo Shipyards - Wharves &amp; Quays*</b>		
Up to 100m	1 tug (i)	1 tug (i)
>101m-200m	2 tugs	2 tugs
>201-239m	3 tugs (iii)	3 tugs (iii)
>240m	4 tugs (i) (iii)	4 tugs (i) (iii)

Ship's Length	Berthing	Unberthing
<b>Menqa Basin</b>		
Up to 130m	2 tugs (i)	1 tug
>131m-200m	2 tugs	2 tugs

Ship's Length	Berthing	Unberthing
<b>Fuel Wharf</b>		
Up to 100m	0 tugs	0 tugs

Ship's Length	Berthing	Unberthing
<b>Palumbo Shipyards - Docks*</b>		
Up to 100m	1 tug (ii)	1 tug (ii)
>101m-200m	2 tugs (ii)	1 tug (ii)
>201-239m	3 tugs (ii)	3 tugs (iii)
>240-299m	4 tugs (i) (iii)	4 tugs (i) (iii)
>300m	4 tugs (iv)	4 tugs (iv)

Ship's Length	Berthing	Unberthing
<b>Pinto Wharves &amp; Deep-Water Quay Wharves</b>		
Up to 100m	0 tugs	0 tugs
>101m-150m	1 tug	1 tug
>151m-200m	2 tugs	2 tugs (i)
>201m	3 tugs (iii)	2 tugs (iii)

Ship's Length	Berthing	Unberthing
<b>Laboratory/Magazine/Lab S1/Lab S2/ Boiler Wharf</b>		
Up to 100m	0 tugs	0 tugs
>100m-150m	1 tug (i)	1 tug (i)
>151m-200m	2 tugs	2 tugs (i)
>201-250m	3 tugs (i) (iii)	2 tugs
>251m	3 tugs (iii)	3 tugs

#### Notes:

- (i) If a vessel has a functional bow thruster and/or stern thruster and favourable 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.

\* Daylight restriction applies

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

**Any vessel shifting between berths within the port shall be subject to the same tug requirements as for an arrival manoeuvre.**

## Annex II

### Minimum Towage Requirement - Revision 5.0 Marsaxlokk Port (Malta Freeport Terminals)

Ship's Length	Berthing	Unberthing
<b>Terminal 1 West Quay</b>		
Up to 130m	1 tug	1 tug (i)
>131m-200m	2 tugs (i)	2 tugs (i)
>201m-250m	2 tugs	2 tugs (i)
>251m-299m or <70,000 GT	2 tugs	2 tugs

Ship's Length	Berthing	Unberthing
<b>Terminal 2 West Quay</b>		
Up to 130m	1 tug	1 tug (i)
>131m-200m	2 tugs (i)	2 tugs (i)
>201m-250m	2 tugs	2 tugs (i)
>251m-299m or <70,000 GT	2 tugs	2 tugs

Ship's Length	Berthing	Unberthing
<b>Terminal 1 North Quay</b>		
Up to 130m	1 tug	1 tug (i)
>131m-200m	2 tugs (i)	2 tugs (i)
>201m-250m	2 tugs	2 tugs (i)
>251m-299m or <70,000 GT	3 tugs (ii)	2 tugs
>300m-399m or >70,000 GT	3 tugs	3 tugs
>400m	4 tugs (i)	3 tugs

Ship's Length	Berthing	Unberthing
<b>Terminal 2 North Quay</b>		
Up to 130m	1 tug	1 tug (i)
>131m-200m	2 tugs (i)	2 tugs (i)
>201m-250m	2 tugs	2 tugs (i)
>251m-299m or <70,000 GT	2 tugs	2 tugs
>300m-399m or >70,000 GT	3 tugs	2 tugs
>400m	4 tugs (i)	3 tugs

Ship's Length	Berthing	Unberthing
<b>Terminal 2 South Quay</b>		
Up to 130m	1 tug	1 tug (i)
>131m-200m	2 tugs (i)	2 tugs (i)
>201m-250m	2 tugs	2 tugs (i)
>251m-299m or <70,000 GT	3 tugs (ii)	2 tugs
>300m-399m or >70,000 GT	3 tugs	3 tugs
>400m	4 tugs (i)	3 tugs

#### Notes:

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

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

**Any vessel shifting between berths within the port shall be subject to the same tug requirements as for an arrival manoeuvre.**

**Annex II** (continued)

**Minimum Towage Requirement - Revision 5.0**

**Marsaxlokk Port Terminals**

Ship's Length	Berthing	Unberthing
<b>Has-Saptan Fuelling Dolphin*</b>		
Up to 130m	2 tugs (i)	1 tug
>131m	2 tugs	2 tugs

Ship's Length	Berthing	Unberthing
<b>LNG Terminal*</b>		
All	4 tugs	4 tugs

Ship's Length	Berthing	Unberthing
<b>EVOS Terminal - MEDSERV Terminal</b>		
Up to 130m	2 tugs (i)	2 tugs (i)
>131m-200m	2 tugs	2 tugs
>201m	3 tugs	2 tugs

Ship's Length	Berthing	Unberthing
<b>Delimara Power Station</b>		
Up to 130m	2 tugs (i)	2 tugs (i)
>131m	2 tugs	2 tugs

**Mgarr Port Terminals**

Ship's Length	Berthing	Unberthing
<b>Mgarr Harbour Quay no.3*</b>		
Up to 80m	1 tug	1 tug (i)

**Notes:**

(i) If a vessel has a functional bow thruster and/or stern thruster and favourable conditions allow, tug resources may be reduced by 1(ONE) in line with Port Notice.

\* Daylight restriction applies

**Any vessel shifting between berths within the port shall be subject to the same tug requirements as for an arrival manoeuvre.**