

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Bunkering Activities

Guidelines for Application for a Trade Licence for Bunker Fuels

1. The importation of bunker fuels is regulated by the Consumer Protection (Control of Imports) Regulations 2017 as amended in Consumer Protection (Control of Imports) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2017.
2. A trader is allowed to import/ trade in bunker fuels only if it holds the valid licence for trade in bunker fuels.
3. A trader has to apply to the Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection for a licence for trade in bunker fuels.
4. The Application Form “Trade Licence for Bunker Fuels” is available on the website of the Ministry and may also be downloaded [here](#).
5. The following documents should be attached to the Application Form:
 - (i) Certificate of Incorporation of the Company;
 - (ii) Business Registration Card;
 - (iii) Documentary evidence of experience in trade of petroleum products and bunkering; and
 - (iv) Port Licence, where applicable.
6. The Application form, along with copies of supporting documents should be sent to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection, Level 2, SICOM Tower, Wall Street, Ebène.
7. Upon approval by the Permanent Secretary, a voucher will be issued to the Applicant to effect payment of the yearly licence fee of Rs 100,000.00 at the Accountant General’s office.
8. The licence shall be issued upon submission of receipt of payment from Applicant. The licence shall be valid for a period of one year and shall not be transferable.

9. A trader shall comply with the conditions related to the Mauritius Revenue Authority (Customs) (MRA) and the Mauritius Ports Authority (MPA) in respect of bunkering activities.
10. Applications for renewal of the trade licence for bunker fuels should be submitted to the Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection at least one month prior to the expiry of the current licence.
11. A surcharge of 35 % shall be applicable after expiry of the licence in addition to the yearly licence fee.
12. A trader involved in bunkering activities shall notify the Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection upon cessation of his activity and return his original licence to the Ministry.

Procedures to be followed for the Importation of Bunker Fuels

1. A trader holding the valid licence for trade in bunker fuels and intending to import/ trade in bunker fuels has to make an online application for an import permit through the Tradelink system. Along with its application, the company should specify the type of products to be imported which should be in accordance with the First Schedule of Consumer Protection (Control of Imports) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2017, the quantity and the storage arrangements.
2. Import permits are, in principle, issued online within four working hours of the application.
3. Prior to the arrival of any vessel carrying bunker fuels for trade, the importer has to notify the Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection, the STC, the MPA and MRA Customs, and submit to them a copy of the Bill of Lading and the Certificate of Quality at Load Port.

4. At latest 24 hours prior to the arrival of the vessel in Port Louis, the trader has to confirm to the Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection, the STC and the MPA, the name of the vessel and its expected date and time of arrival in Port Louis.
5. The trader shall inform the Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection, the STC and MRA Customs of the arrival of the vessel in Port Louis. As soon as the vessel reaches the port or is berthed, samples of the product(s) have to be collected for preliminary testing purposes. Sample collection will be done in the presence of officers of the MRA Customs and the STC.
6. The trader has to provide to the STC a copy of the results of all the tests as specified in Part I to VI to the First Schedule of the Consumer Protection (Control of Imports) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2017.
7. Any vessel reaching the port outside normal office hours or during a weekend or public holiday, will have to follow the same procedures as mentioned above.

Conditions

1. All consignments of bunker fuels that traders intend to import independently from the State Trading Corporation (STC) would be subject to written authorisation of the Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection.
2. Traders shall ensure that sufficient shore ullage is available on each arrival of the STC Chartered Tanker for the discharge of bunker fuels. In the event of insufficient shore ullage, they shall be responsible for any such amount of demurrage to be made payable to the STC, being understood that such amount would be related only to bunker fuels.
3. In the event of any penalty arising out of dead-freight loss on account of the contract in respect of the STC Chartered Tanker, traders shall be responsible for such amount of demurrage to be made payable to the STC, being understood that such amount would be limited to volumes of bunker fuels imported by the traders. For sake of clarity, such costs would not be paid by traders to cover the import of other petroleum products.

4. In the event the arrival of, or discharging of product(s) from the importer's vessel coincides with the arrival of STC's vessel, priority shall be given to STC's vessel to unload its products. Shifting charges, if any, for the importer's vessel shall be for the importer's own account.
5. Trader shall be responsible to deal with any oil spillage arising out of its bunkering activities in Mauritius.

Note: The Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection reserves the right to add any other conditions as it may deem fit.

CONTACT DETAILS:

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