

Waiver of Government Fees

The Government has announced extension of waiver measures on fees and charges and rental concessions to support businesses. Measures implemented by the Marine Department (“MD”) are set out in the table below -

Measure	Waiver Period/ Fee Reduction Period	Enquiry
1. Waiving the port facilities and light dues payable by ocean-going vessels and high speed crafts	1 October 2019 to 30 September 2021 ¹	Central Marine Office 2852 3081
2. Waiving the “Permit to Remain” fees payable by river trade vessels	1 November 2019 to 31 October 2021 ¹	Central Marine Office 2852 3081
3. Waiving the licence fees of all local vessels, namely Classes I (passenger), II (working), III (fishing) and IV (pleasure) vessels (* for Class IV vessels, only those which are let for hire or reward)	1 November 2019 to 31 October 2021 ¹	Central Marine Office 2852 3081
4. Waiving the “Vehicle Entry Ticket” fee for the first hour payable by trucks entering the Public Cargo Working Areas (PCWAs)	1 October 2019 to 30 September 2021 ¹	Cargo Handling Section 2852 3656
5. Waiving the “Operation Area Permit” fee payable by the PCWAs operators	1 October 2019 to 30 September 2021 ¹	Cargo Handling Section 2852 3656
6. Waiving the fee payable for the “Removal Permit for Category 1 Dangerous Goods (Explosives)” for dangerous goods carried by a local vessel in Hong Kong waters	1 October 2019 to 30 September 2021 ¹	Dangerous Goods Unit 2852 4372

¹ Including the extension of the waiver of government fees and charges implemented in 2019 for one more year to 30 September 2021 or 31 October 2021 as announced on 23 September 2020.

Measure	Waiver Period/ Fee Reduction Period	Enquiry
7. Waiving 50% of the monthly fees payable by operators of PCWAs under Berth Licence Agreements (BLAs)	1 October 2019 to 31 March 2020	Cargo Handling Section 2852 3656
Waiving 75% of the monthly fees payable by operators of PCWAs under BLAs	1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 ²	
8. Waiving 75% of the monthly rental payable by vessel maintenance contractors at the Government Dockyard	1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 ²	Administration Unit (Government Fleet Division) 2307 3573

Waiver measures on fees and charges (including 12-month extension period¹)

1. Port facilities and light dues

To waive port facilities and light dues payable by ocean-going vessels (“OGVs”) and high speed crafts (“HSCs”) for 24 months from 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2021.

i. Concession period

The concession period starts from midnight at the start of 1 October 2019 until midnight at the end of 30 September 2021.

ii. Application

OGVs and HSCs are eligible for waiver upon making formalities applications through the existing procedures. There is no need to lodge a separate application for the waiver.

iii. Waiver

Port facilities and light dues payable by OGVs and HSCs for the use of port facilities on each occasion of entry to Hong Kong waters under the Shipping and Port Control Ordinance will be waived if they arrive in the waters of Hong Kong during the concession period.

(“arrival”, in relation to a vessel entering the waters of Hong Kong, means the first occasion on which a vessel ceases to be underway after entering those waters from sea or river trade waters.)

² Including the extension of rental concessions for six more months to 31 March 2021 as announced on 15 September 2020.

2. “Permit to Remain” fees

To waive the “Permit to Remain” fees payable by river-trade vessels (“RTVs”) for 24 months from 1 November 2019 to 31 October 2021.

i. Concession period

The concession period starts from midnight at the start of 1 November 2019 until midnight at the end of 31 October 2021.

ii. Application

RTVs are eligible for the waiver upon making applications for “Permit to Remain” under the existing procedures. There is no need to lodge a separate application for the waiver.

iii. Waiver

The fees payable for -

(a) the grant of a permit to remain under section 41; or

(b) the renewal of a permit to remain under section 42,

of the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (General) Regulation will be waived if the validity period of the permit granted or renewed commences within the concession period.

3. Licence fees

To waive the fees payable for the issue or renewal of (a) full licences; (b) temporary licences; (c) grant of permissions for laid-up vessels in respect of local Class I, II and III vessels, as well as Class IV vessels which are let for hire or reward from 1 November 2019 to 31 October 2021.

i. Concession period

The concession is offered in two periods, i.e. from 1 November 2019 to 31 October 2020 (concession period 1); and from 1 November 2020 to 31 October 2021 (concession period 2).

ii. Application

Local vessels are eligible for the waiver upon making applications under existing procedures for the issuance or renewal of full licences, temporary licences, or grant of permissions for laid-up vessels. There is no need to lodge a separate application for the waiver. However, in the case of Class IV vessels which are let for hire or reward, a certificate of inspection or certificate of survey which complies with section 6(3) of the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Certificate and Licensing) Regulation is required to be presented.

iii. Waiver

The fees payable in respect of an application made under the following sections of the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Certificate and Licensing) Regulation:

- (a) section 15 for the issue of a full licence;
- (b) section 17 for the renewal of a full licence;
- (c) section 19 for the issue or renewal of a temporary licence; or
- (d) section 21 for the grant of a permission for a laid-up vessel in respect of a local vessel;

will be waived if the applications are made within either concession period 1 or concession period 2. While if the aggregate validity period exceeds 12 months during either one of the concession periods, the fee in respect of the excess period shall be payable.

4. Vehicle Entry Ticket fee

To waive Vehicle Entry Ticket fee for the first hour payable by trucks entering the PCWAs for 24 months from 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2021.

i. Concession period

The concession period starts from midnight at the start of 1 October 2019 until midnight at the end of 30 September 2021.

ii. Application

Trucks entering the PCWAs during the concession period are eligible for the fee waiver. There is no need to lodge a separate application for the waiver.

iii. Waiver

Vehicle Entry Ticket fee for the first hour payable by trucks entering the PCWAs will be waived.

5. Operation Area Permit fee

To waive the Operation Area Permit fee payable by the operators for use of the operation areas at the PCWAs for 24 months from 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2021.

i. Concession period

The concession period starts from 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2021.

ii. Application

The fee waiver will be granted upon issuance of the Operation Area Permit during the concession period. There is no need to lodge a separate application for the waiver.

iii. Waiver

Operation Area Permit fee payable by operators of PCWAs will be waived.

6. Permit fee for the “Removal Permit for Category 1 Dangerous Goods (Explosives)”

To waive the fee payable for the “Removal Permit for Category 1 Dangerous Goods (Explosives)” for dangerous goods carried by a local vessel in Hong Kong waters for a period of 24 months from 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2021.

i. Concession period

The concession period starts from 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2021.

ii. Application

Local vessels are eligible for waiver upon making “Removal Permit for Category 1 Dangerous Goods (Explosives)” applications under the existing procedures. There is no need to lodge a separate application for the waiver.

iii. Waiver

Under the Dangerous Goods (General) Regulations (Cap.295B), a removal permit is required when Category 1 Dangerous Goods (Explosives) are carried by a local vessel in Hong Kong waters. The permit fee will be waived if the removal date of the permit falls within the concession period. For waiver of other fees under Cap. 295B, please contact Civil Engineering and Development Department at telephone number 3842 7230.

Rental concession (including 6-month extension period²)

7. Monthly fees for berths at Public Cargo Working Areas (PCWAs)

To waive 50% of the monthly fees payable by operators of PCWAs under Berth Licence Agreements (BLAs) from 1 October 2019 to 31 March 2020, and to increase the amount of waiver to 75% from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

i. Concession period

The concession period starts from 1 October 2019 to 31 March 2021.

ii. Application

Supplemental agreements have been signed with operators of PCWAs for waiving of the monthly fees payable by operators to the Government under BLAs.

iii. Waiver

50% of the monthly fees payable by operators of PCWAs under BLAs have been waived from 1 October 2019 to 31 March 2020.

75% of the monthly fees payable by operators of PCWAs under BLAs will be waived from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

8. Monthly rental for vessel maintenance workshops at the Government Dockyard

To waive 75% of the monthly rental payable by the contractors of vessel maintenance workshops at the Government Dockyard from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

i. Concession period

The concession period starts from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

ii. Application

Supplemental agreements will be signed with the vessel maintenance contractors at the Government Dockyard for waiving of the monthly rental payable by the contractors.

iii. Waiver

75% of the monthly rental payable by the vessel maintenance contractors at the Government Dockyard will be waived from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.