

The Fremantle Ports issued Certificate of Local Knowledge permits the holder to operate a commercial vessel less than 45 meters during arrival / departure and within the defined port limit waters, without the services of a Fremantle Ports marine pilot under the following conditions:

- The holder is recorded as the Master of the vessel for the entire duration of the operation.
- The Certificate of Local Knowledge is area specific to the Port of Fremantle

Eligibility

Vessels

The categories of vessels with length overall less than 45m, that apply for the purpose of obtaining a Certificate of local knowledge are:

- Commercial vessels undergoing a sea trial
- Commercial vessel that piles between Fremantle port and Rottnest Island or between Fremantle port and Hillary's Boat Harbour
- Commercial vessel that enters Fremantle Port from or is leaving Fremantle Port to move into the Swan River
- Commercial vessel engaged in towage operations
- Commercial vessel engaged in dredging operations

Applicants

- The applicant must have previously worked on a vessel as a Master or First Mate on at least 4 occasions within the last 12 months, when the vessel was moved in and/or out of Port of Fremantle.
- The applicant should be in possession of Certificate of Competency as Master <45m NC when submitting the application.

Evidence of the above must be supplied at the time of application.

The applicant must:

- Successfully complete the written, blank chart and oral examinations conducted by the Harbour Masters Office.
- Pay the applicable fee for Certificate of Local Knowledge

Validity

A Certificate of local knowledge is valid for 2 years and expires at the end of that period unless revoked by the Harbour Master.

Renewal

An applicant may renew their certificate in accordance with the following:

- CoLK expired within 2 years of application
- Valid Certificate of Competency
- Valid AMSA Medical Certificate
- Can show 4 IN and OUT movements as a Master or Chief Mate

Condition For Use and Revocation

The following conditions for use and revocation of the Certificate of Local Knowledge applies:

- The Certificate of Local Knowledge applies to the navigable waters endorsed in the certificate. Use of the certificate outside the endorsed areas will result in revocation.
- Harbour Master may direct the Certificate of Local Knowledge holder to use pilotage services when deemed necessary
- The Certificate of Local Knowledge is not transferrable
- The Certificate of Local Knowledge applies to the category of vessel and areas of operation of vessels endorsed in the Certificate
- The Certificate of Local Knowledge will be revoked by written notice, if used for vessels not endorsed in the Certificate
- The Certificate of Local Knowledge will be revoked by written notice, if used for any other reason outside the intended use
- The Certificate of Local Knowledge must not be used to move vessels within compulsory pilotage areas E.g.: Deep water channel which is intended for the use of deep draft vessels under pilotage
- The Certificate of Local Knowledge must not be used to provide pilotage services to a vessel which otherwise is required to engage the services of a Fremantle Ports Marine Pilot. In such cases, the Certificate will be revoked by written notice.
- The Certificate of Local Knowledge holder / employer is liable for any damage to port infrastructure including damage to nav aids when operations under the authority of the Certificate

Application

To apply for a Fremantle Ports Certificate of Local Knowledge please fill out the online application form on the Fremantle Ports website.

A member of the Harbour Masters Office will be in touch regarding booking an examination time.

3 hours should be allocated for the exam.

Examination

Blank Chart Examination

The examination includes identifying, illustrating, locating and naming the navigational information on a blank chart (provided by Fremantle Ports), including but not limited to:

- Port limits
- All navigational aids showing characteristics (i.e., sequence, lights shapes, colour etc)
- Lead lights and alignment
- Sectorised lights and arc of visibility
- Transit alignments
- Prominent features (i.e., hills, towers, monuments etc)
- Navigable channels indicating design, depth and alignment
- Prominent sand banks
- Designated anchorage areas including prohibited areas
- Ship reporting positions
- Berths and design depths
- Underwater pipelines
- Reaches of the River
- Heights of bridges
- Compulsory pilotage areas

Written and Oral Examination

The written exam will include but not be limited to the knowledge of the below information:

- Port frequencies
- Interaction with VTS
- Channel rules
- Incident reporting
- Security
- General port information
- Notice to Mariners and Navigation Warnings

Study Recourses - AUS 112, AUS 117, Port Information Guide, WA Port Authorities Act and Regulations.

Fees

Application fee for Certificate of Local Knowledge Examination is \$96.68 not subject to GST (from 01/07/24 - 30/06/25). Renewal fee is \$104.00 including GST.

Harbour Masters Office

Fremantle Ports