
Limited-Time Access for Commercial Vessels in the Territory

Release Date: 16 October, 2025



The boating community is duly informed that in accordance with the **Commercial Recreational Vessels Licensing (Amendment) Act, 2025 (No. 13 of 2025)**, the following applies to any commercial vessel exceeding 500 Gross Registered Tons (GRT) effective **1st June, 2025**:

10A. (1) A commercial vessel exceeding 500 GRT, that is not

(a) a BVI vessel; or

(b) a large yacht holding a valid licence issued under section 3,

shall not be permitted to remain in the waters of the Virgin Islands for a period in excess of sixty continuous days.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), the owner or licensed operator of a vessel thereunder may apply to the Commissioner for an extension of time to remain in the waters of the Virgin Islands.

(3) An application under subsection (2) shall be made no later than seventy-two hours in advance of the expiration of the period in subsection (1).

(4) Where an application is made under subsection (2) and in accordance with subsection

The boating community is hereby informed that, effective 1st June 2025, amendments to Schedule 2 of the *Cruising and Home Port Permit Act, 2021 (No. 9 of 2021)* have officially taken effect. These changes are outlined in the *Cruising and Home Port Permit (Amendment of Schedule 2) Order, 2024 (Statutory Instrument 2024 No. 83)* and were announced by HM Customs Department.

Additionally, in accordance with the *Commercial Recreational Vessels Licensing (Amendment) Act 2025 (No. 13 of 2025)*, new regulations now govern intra-trading activities within the Virgin Islands. Intra-trading is defined as trading between two harbours, ports, or anchorages. Under the new provisions, only BVI-licensed vessels that have received ministerial approval and paid the applicable fees may engage in intra-trading.

Non-BVI vessels may be granted a waiver by the Minister under specific conditions: the waiver may not exceed 14 days, may be issued no more than twice per calendar year for the same vessel, and cannot be granted within six months of a previous waiver's expiration. Furthermore, vessels operating under such a waiver must obtain a Port State Control inspection certification from the Virgin Islands Shipping and Maritime Authority and pay a certification fee of \$1,500 before commencing operations.

It is important to note that these restrictions do not apply to small cruise ships as defined in the *Cruising and Home Port Permit Act, 2021 (No. 29 of 2021)* or to licensed commercial recreational vessels, with the exception of foreign-based water taxis.

For further details or clarification, stakeholders are encouraged to contact the relevant authorities or visit the official government website.

For Additional Information Contact:


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Gallery




CRUISING & HOME PORT PERMIT FEES

The HM Customs Department announced today that the following amendments to Schedule 2 of the Cruising and Home Port Permit Act, 2021, No. 9 of 2021 have taken effect. This amendment, outlined in the Cruising and Home Port Permit (Amendment of Schedule 2) Order, 2024 (Statutory Instrument 2024 No. 83), was implemented on 1st June, 2025.

CLASSIFICATION	RATE	FEES
CRUISING PERMIT		
Home Based Charter Boats	Per person per day	\$4
Foreign Based Charter Boats	Per person per day	\$16
Home Port Small Cruise Ship	Per person per day	\$5
Approved Cruise Ship	Per person per day	\$8
BVI Vessel:		
Term charter vessel	Per year or Per person per day	\$5,500
Day trip vessel	Per year or Per person per day	\$6,000
		\$4
Workboat, Hotel Boat or Other Vessel transporting guests, crew, staff or workers of an establishment between a nominated point of departure and a nominated point of arrival, and moving directly from one nominated point to another with no stops	Per month or Per year	\$150 \$600
HOME PORT & SPECIAL PERMITS		
Home Port Permit	Per year	\$1,500
Special Permit	Per Cruise	\$500

For additional information, please contact the Office of the Commissioner of Customs at 468-5800 or 468-6852



INTRA-TRADING IN THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

The boating community is duly informed that in accordance with the Commercial Recreational Vessels Licensing (Amendment) Act, 2025 (No. 13 of 2025) effective 1st June, 2025, the following applies to any vessel intra-trading (trading between 2 harbours, ports or anchorages) in the Virgin Islands:

10C. (1) Subject to subsections (2) and (3), no vessel, other than a BVI vessel for which

- (a) the Minister has granted a licence to engage in intra-trading; and
- (b) the owner or operator has paid the appropriate fee as set out in Schedule 1,

shall be permitted to engage in intra-trading in the Virgin Islands.

(2) The Minister may grant permission for a vessel other than a BVI vessel to engage in intra-trading in the Virgin Islands subject to the following conditions:

- (a) a waiver may be granted for a period not exceeding 14 days;
- (b) a waiver may be granted in relation to the same vessel no more than twice in one calendar year; and
- (c) a waiver may not be granted to the same vessel within 6 months of the expiration of the preceding waiver.

(3) A vessel in relation to which a waiver has been granted under subsection (2) shall not be permitted to commence operations thereunder until the owner or operator of the vessel

- (a) acquires a Port State Control inspection certification issued by the Virgin Islands Shipping and Maritime Authority; and
- (b) pays the corresponding certification fee of \$1,500 applicable for a period not exceeding one year.

(4) Subsection (1) does not apply to

- (a) a small cruise ship as defined in the Cruising and Home Port Permit Act, 2021, No. 29 of 2021; or
- (b) a licensed commercial recreational vessel except a foreign based water taxi.

(5) For the purposes of this section

"Intra-trading" means trading between 2 harbours, ports or anchorages."

For additional details, please contact the CRVL Unit in the Ministry of Finance at 468-2144

Additional Documents or Media

- [Intra-Trading in the Virgin Islands](#)