



**Gibraltar Port Authority**  
**Conditions for the Issue of a Fast Launch License**

**FAST LAUNCH LICENSING CONDITIONS**

- 1) “Fast Launch” means a vessel which does not exceed 60 feet in length overall and is fitted with an engine or engines of an aggregate 200 or more brake horsepower and having a speed / length ratio of or greater than 1.6 as defined below:

$$SL = \frac{0.298 V}{\sqrt{L}}$$

V = Speed in Knots , L = Overall length in feet.

- 2) The Captain of the Port may, with the approval of the Government, grant to the owner of a fast launch, or to a person intending to purchase a fast launch, a licence to use it in the controlled area. The “controlled area” is as defined in section 2 of the Fast Launch Control Act. No. 1987-20.
- 3) A licence granted shall:
- a) be valid only for the launch which it is expressed to relate.
  - b) be valid for 12 months, unless sooner surrendered or revoked or unless the holder of the license ceases to be the owner of the launch.
  - c) shall not be transferable to any other person.
- 4) General conditions of importation licence – to be observed after importation:
- a) The vessel shall be used for pleasure purposes only and the vessel shall be exported from Gibraltar if it is no longer required for such purpose.
  - b) The vessel will not be sold, hired, lent, transferred, offered for sale or otherwise disposed of whilst in Gibraltar.
- 5) The owner of a fast launch who transfers the ownership of it to another person shall forthwith-
- a) inform the Captain of the Port, furnishing him with the name and address of the transferee; and
  - b) surrender his licence to the Captain of the Port.
- 6) No person shall use or be in charge of a fast launch within the controlled area unless he is –
- a) the holder of a valid licence
  - b) the holder of a valid permit
- 7) No person shall use a fast launch within the controlled area between the hours of 10.00 p.m. and 07.00a.m.
- 8) The owner of a fast launch for the use of which a licence has been granted shall:
- a) cause the name of the launch to be marked at each side of the bow; and
  - b) cause the name of the launch and the port of registry or licence to be marked either at the stern or on both quarters of the launch , whichever may be more convenient,

all such markings to be clearly legible and in letters of not less than four inches in height.



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- 9)
- a) No modification shall, without the approval of the Captain of the Port, be made to the engine or engines of a fast launch, which would cause the engine or engines to become capable of developing greater power.
  - b) No engine fitted to a fast launch shall, without the approval of the Captain of the Port, be replaced by an engine or engines of greater horsepower.
  - c) No additional engine shall, without the approval of the Captain of the Port, be fitted to or carried in a fast launch.
- 10) a) No fuel shall be carried in a fast launch otherwise than in approved tanks fitted in a position authorised by a surveyor of ships.
- b) No modification shall be made to the fuel tanks of a fast launch nor shall any additional tank be fitted without the approval in writing of the Captain of the Port.
  - c) The Captain of the Port shall not approve any modification or addition which would result in any fuel being carried otherwise than in accordance with subsection 10(a) .
- 11)
- a) Where a fast launch has been undergoing repairs or adjustments in any shipyard or marina, she may, notwithstanding anything contained in section 9 of the Fast Launch Control Act. No. 1987-20 ( see section (6) above ) , be taken out for testing in the controlled area by a mechanic approved for that purpose by the Captain of the Port.
  - b) Approval of a mechanic for the purpose of testing fast launches shall be in writing and may be withdrawn by the Captain of the Port at any time.
- 12) a) It shall be the duty of the owner of a fast launch to procure the survey of the launch by surveyors of ships at least once in every year at intervals, as nearly as may be, of twelve months and no such launch shall be taken to sea unless there is in force in respect of her a valid certificate as to survey issued in pursuance of this section.
- b) A declaration of survey of a fast launch shall include statements of the following particulars, if the surveyor is satisfied on the survey that he can with propriety so state-
    - (i) that the life saving appliances carried are sufficient and in good condition; and
    - (ii) that the general equipment is in good condition and properly adjusted; and
    - (iii) that the launch is seaworthy and is not unsafe.
  - c) Nothing in this section shall be construed as derogating from the provisions of section 105 of the Merchant Shipping Act.



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- 13) A craft of any description, whether it is a fast launch, will be subject to a survey and speed trial at any time by the Maritime Administrator at the request of the Collector of Customs, Captain of Customs, Captain of the Port or Commissioner of Police.
- 14) Owner of a Licensed fast launch will be required to be in a possession of an approved Certificate of Competency and the said owner will be required to be embarked onboard the fast launch whilst in use.
- 15) No craft (fast launch or otherwise) to be allowed into Gibraltar unless the engine bears a legible serial number on an appropriate identity plaque attached to the engine.
- 16) All craft must register with Captain of the Port irrespective of length.
- 17) Licence fees are payable irrespective of the length of the vessel.
- 18) The minimum requirement is for third party insurance for craft exceeding 15 knots.
- 19) A Licence cannot be issued to an applicant for a named user who has a conviction under the Drugs (Misuse) Act, Import and Export Act, any violation or breach of the Merchant, Shipping Act, Port Act, Fast Launches (Control) Act or any subsidiary legislation, Drug Trafficking or Criminal Justice Act.
- 20) The application must comply with the conditions set out in the Import and Export Control Regulations.
- 21) Any restriction on use of craft is to be included in the licence.
- 22) A Fast Launch Licence is valid for twelve months and must be renewed annually.
- 23) a) Charges for Fast Launch Licence:
  - i) An Annual fee for application for a licence including the issue of a licence and survey - £ 50
  - ii) Approval of modification of engines - £ 10
- 24) If the Chief Executive of the Gibraltar Port Authority believes that any of the above conditions are not met to his satisfaction, he may suspend or withdraw a licence at any time
- 25) The owner of a fast launch must abide by the Port Rules , Fast Launches (Control) Act and the authority of the Captain of the Port
- 26) The Chief Executive of the Gibraltar Port Authority reserves the right to amend the conditions for issue of a Fast Launch Licence at any time.



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**APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR A FAST LAUNCH LICENCE**

**The Application Form needs to be accompanied by the following documentation:**

**All documentation needs to be submitted in original. Photocopies are not acceptable.**

- 1) I/D Card or Passport
- 2) Proof of address
- 3) An applicant must produce a manufacturer's certificate. In the case of an old craft, for which a manufacturer's certificate may not be available, discretion will be used in consultation with the Maritime Administrator to determine whether or not the craft can be licensed or registered in Gibraltar.
- 4) Two identical postcard size coloured photographs of the craft are required.
- 5) Engines Manufacturer's Certificate. The model number and serial number(s) of the engine(s) stating their rating in kilowatts and bhp is essential.
- 6) Letter of confirmation of mooring (if not Government mooring).
- 7) Bill of Sale to be produced
- 8) Valid Certificate of Insurance or evidence that the vessel will be insured if the Licence is granted.
- 9) A Certificate of Competence issued by a recognised Authority and approved by the Maritime Administrator
- 10) Import Duty receipt from Customs.(If vessel already imported into Gibraltar).
- 11) The appropriate licence fee, which is as follows : -
  - a) Charges for Fast Launch Licence:
    - i) An Annual fee for application for a licence including the issue of a licence and survey - £ 50
    - iii) Approval of modification of engines - £ 10
- 12) A declaration signed by each intended authorised user of the launch consenting to the Port Authority checking with the Royal Gibraltar Police in respect of any previous convictions.
- 13) A statement on whether the fast launch is to be used for one-off event for a defined period of time(such as a race) or whether it is intended to import it on a licence that will need to be renewed annually.



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**Guide to Application Requirements**  
**FOR A FAST LAUNCH LICENCE**

	YES	NO
Application must be submitted on as shown in Form FL/1 & FL/2		
Application must be signed by the individual applying for the Licence		
Application must be accompanied by the fee		
<b><i>Specific details to this Application:</i></b>		
a) I/D Card or Passport		
b) Proof of address		
c) Does the vessel engine bear a legible serial number on an appropriate identity plaque attached to the engine? Evidence to be attached.		
d) Evidence of vessels Manufacturers Certificate.		
e) Model number and serial number(s) of the engine(s) stating their rating in kilowatts and bhp.		
f) Letter of confirmation of mooring (if not Government mooring)		
g) Evidence of Insurance (third party minimum) or evidence that the vessel will be insured if the Licence is granted.		
h) Certificate of Competence		
i) Import Duty receipt from Customs (If vessel already imported into Gibraltar).		
j) Two identical postcard size coloured photographs of the craft.		
k) Declaration by each authorised user giving consent for checking with the Gibraltar Police		
l) Statement on whether fast launch is to be used for one – off event (such as a race) or whether it is intended to import it on a licence that will need to be renewed annually.		
m) Bill of Sale		



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**PROCEDURE CHECK LIST**  
**FOR A FAST LAUNCH LICENCE**

	YES	DATE
a) Application requirements and all documentation have been submitted by applicant together with Form FL/1 & FL/2. (For Renewal , applicant must provide necessary documentation of any changes since the initial application).		
b) Application Forms FL/1 & FL/2 have been sent to RGP for vetting		
c) Copies of Application Forms FL/1 & FL/2 have been sent to Customs for vetting		
d) Received Approval letter for issue of Fast launch Licence from RGP		
e) Received Approval letter for issue of Fast launch Licence from Customs		
f) Application Forms FL/1 & FL/2 together with RGP and Customs approval letters have been sent to Financial Secretary for approval and Importation Licence		
g) Received Approval letter and Fast Launch Importation Licence from Financial secretary		
h) GPA to issue a Fast Launch Licence to be approved by C.O.P and Red book to be issued or renewed.		