

PROVISIONAL GUIDELINES ON LOCAL VESSEL AVAILABILITY VERIFICATION BY MMD FOR DOMESTIC SHIPPING LICENSE

Last updated on 1 May 2026

GUIDELINES ON LOCAL VESSEL AVAILABILITY VERIFICATION PROCEDURE

1. LOCAL VESSEL AVAILABILITY VERIFICATION BY MMD

The use of Foreign Registered Vessels may be considered if the Malaysian Registered Vessel is unavailable or unable to meet the specifications required subject to the verification and conditions as set forth by the Ministry of Transport. Effective 1 July 2023, **Malaysia Marine Department (MMD) will be assuming MASA's role** in verifying availability of Malaysia Registered Vessels. A major part of this procedure, including Advertisement, Counter Offer by Malaysian Shipowner, Negotiation and Mediation will be incorporated in the eDSL system to streamline the process and ensure greater transparency.

Note: *Previously '**Advertisement**' is known as '**circulation of DSL application to Malaysian Shipowner**' and **'Counter Offer**' is known as '**Block issuance by Malaysian Shipowner**'.*

2. APPLICATION SUBMISSION

(a) Application can be made as usual through **Domestic Shipping License System (eDSL System)** via **www.edsl.marine.gov.my** by choosing the type of application according to the vessel type.

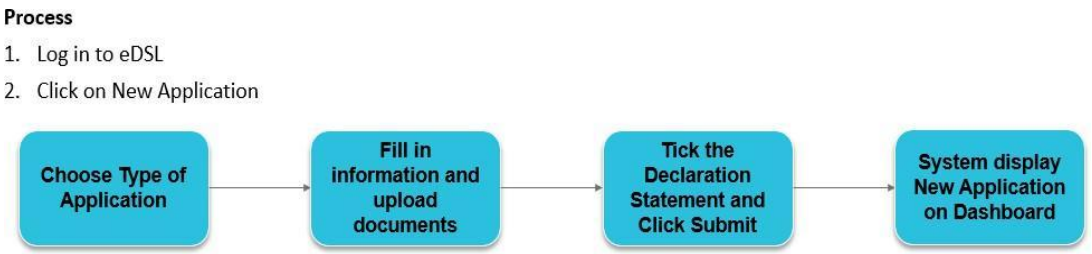
(b) For a specific type of vessel, choose application type A (Bunkering), B (Product Tanker), C (Cargo Vessel), D (Offshore Support Vessel), or E (Tug and Barge). For other general types of vessels, choose application type F (Others). (**Refer to appendix A for full list of vessels under each application type**).

(c) If an application is submitted using the incorrect type of applications, it will be rejected. If incorrect/incomplete information or documentation is submitted, the application will be returned to the applicant for amendment. The resubmitted application shall be treated as a new application.

(d) All applications **must be submitted by 12.00 pm** to ensure that it is **advertised on eDSL portal on the same day at 3.00 pm**. Any application that is submitted after 12.00 pm will be processed and advertised at 3.00 pm the following working day.

(e) If an applicant has an existing, active DSL, the application will not be submitted successfully. Applicant has to email cancellation request to MOT via eDSL **(edsljlm@marine.gov.my)** to shorten the validity period of existing DSL through the Licence Changes function **(✎).**

(f) If an application is submitted successfully, it will be displayed as "New Application" on Applicant's Dashboard. Refer to the flow chart as follows:



3. FIRST LINE OF VERIFICATION BY MMD OPERATOR & ADVERTISEMENT

(a) MMD Operator reserves the right to either Return Application to Applicant **(RTA-M)** in case of incorrect/incomplete information or documentation OR **Cancel the Application** if the wrong type of application is submitted.

(b) Once MMD Operator has reviewed the relevant documentation (COR, SSM and Work Order) and the information required is deemed sufficient, the application will be advertised on eDSL portal for **48 hours** to allow Malaysian Shipowners to review them and offer their own vessel if it is available and fits the required specification.

4. COUNTER OFFER BY MALAYSIAN SHIPOWNER

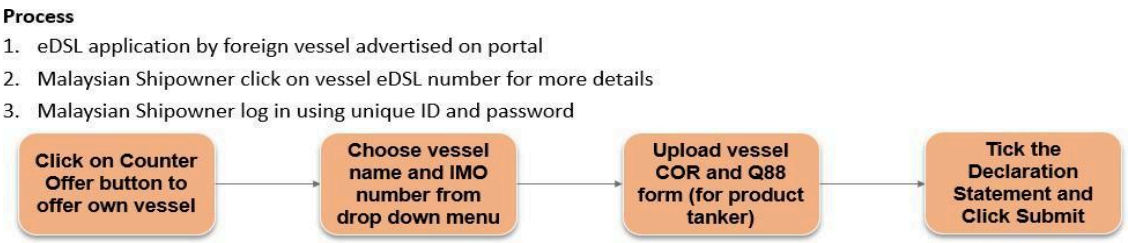
(a) Only a Malaysian Shipowner will be able to log in to eDSL using their unique ID to view the foreign vessel details. If a wrong ID is inserted, the user will be barred from viewing the vessel details or to perform a counter offer.

(b) Counter offer is processed on a **first come first served basis**. A single foreign vessel application will not be subjected to multiple counter offers by Malaysia Shipowners. Hence, only a Malaysian Shipowner will be allowed to offer a Malaysian flagged vessel through the counter offer function.

(c) Vessels must fit the technical specification, capacity and be available during the project starting date (laycan date). The vessel offered must also already have active DSL to prevent delays in operation.

(d) Once a counter offer is submitted successfully, the Malaysian Shipowner and foreign vessel agent (applicant) will receive eDSL email notifying the counter offer.

(e) The **Malaysian Shipowner must begin negotiation** by emailing the Applicant and copying MMD **(edsljlm@marine.gov.my)** in all communication. Refer to the flow chart as follows**:**



5. SECOND LINE OF VERIFICATION BY MMD SUPERVISOR

(a) All documents submitted during the counter offer will be checked by MMD Supervisor to ensure the local vessel offered fits the mandatory requirements.

(b) MMD Supervisor reserves the right to cancel the counter offer if any of the following criteria were not met by the vessel offered in a satisfactory manner;

i. Technical Specification

ii. Capacity

iii. Availability

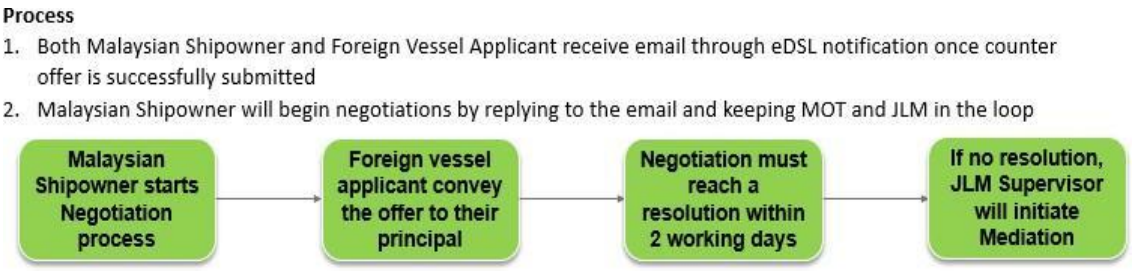
6. NEGOTIATION PROCESS

(a) The **Malaysian Shipowner has to initiate contact within 2 working days** or the counter offer will be considered invalid and will be cancelled by MMD Supervisor. The Malaysian Shipowner has to provide details on technical specification, capacity, availability and cost in the email to the applicant.

(b) The **Foreign Vessel Applicant is responsible to convey the counter offer to the principal** and come to an agreeable solution with Malaysian Shipowner. The applicant **has to respond to the Malaysian Shipowner's offer within 2 working days**, otherwise the eDSL application will be considered invalid and cancelled.

(c) If both parties remain uncooperative, MMD Supervisor may initiate Mediation without having to wait for the allocated 48 hours to end.

(d) If no resolution is achieved in the period of 48 hours, MMD Supervisor will initiate Mediation through the eDSL system. Refer to the flow chart as follows:



7. MEDIATION PROCESS

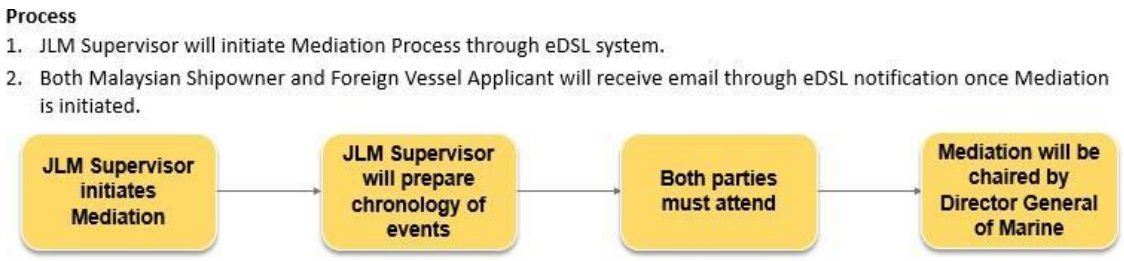
(a) Once MMD Supervisor initiates the Mediation Process through eDSL system, both Malaysian Shipowner and Foreign Vessel Applicant will receive notification email through eDSL system detailing the date, time and location of Mediation Session.

(b) The mediation session will be held **within 5 working days from the Negotiation deadline.** The result of Mediation will be obtained by the 9th working day from the date that full documentation was received by MMD.

(c) If either party fails to attend the Mediation, the Mediation will automatically favour the party that is present.

(d) The **Chair of Mediation is the Director General of Marine.** However, if the Director General is unavailable, Mediation shall be chaired by the Deputy Director General of Marine. **The decision made by the Chair is final.**

(e) The flow chart detailing the Mediation Process is as follows:

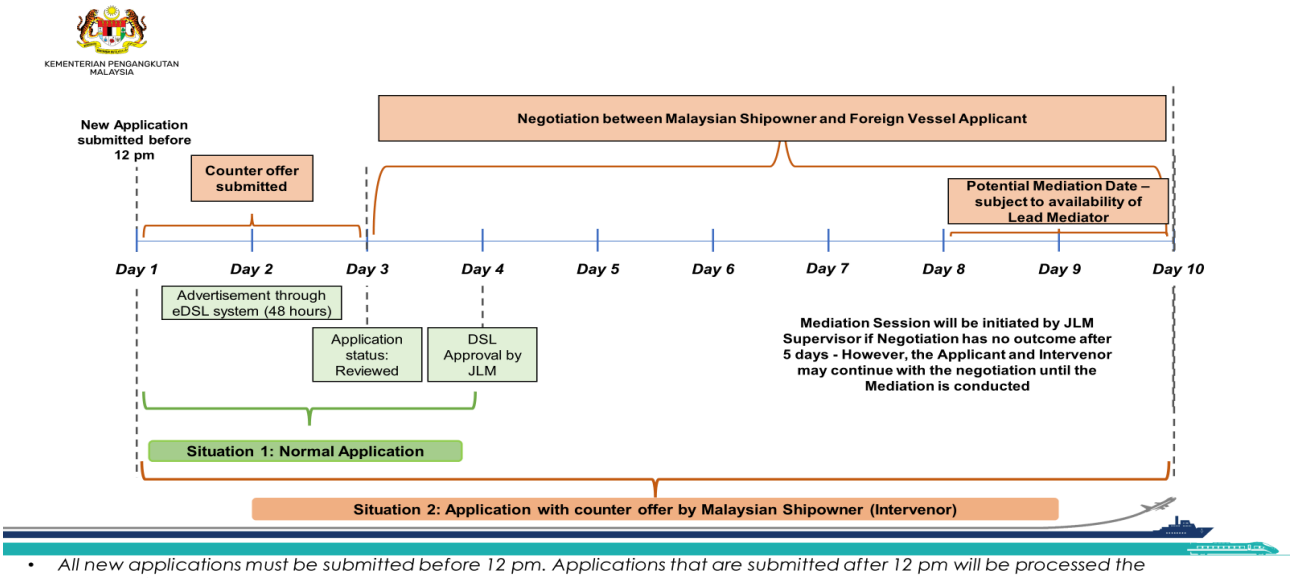


8. APPEAL

(a) If either party intends to appeal the decision, LPPDN Secretariat (MOT) has to be informed via email **(edsl@mot.gov.my)** accompanied by valid reason and supporting documentation **within 2 working days of the Mediation session**.

(b) The LPPDN Secretariat will compile the information provided and prepare a paper to seek the Minister's decision. The decision made by the Minister shall be final and indisputable. A written reply will be provided to the relevant party(ies) **within 30 days from the date appeal was submitted** to LPPDN Secretariat to inform the decision.

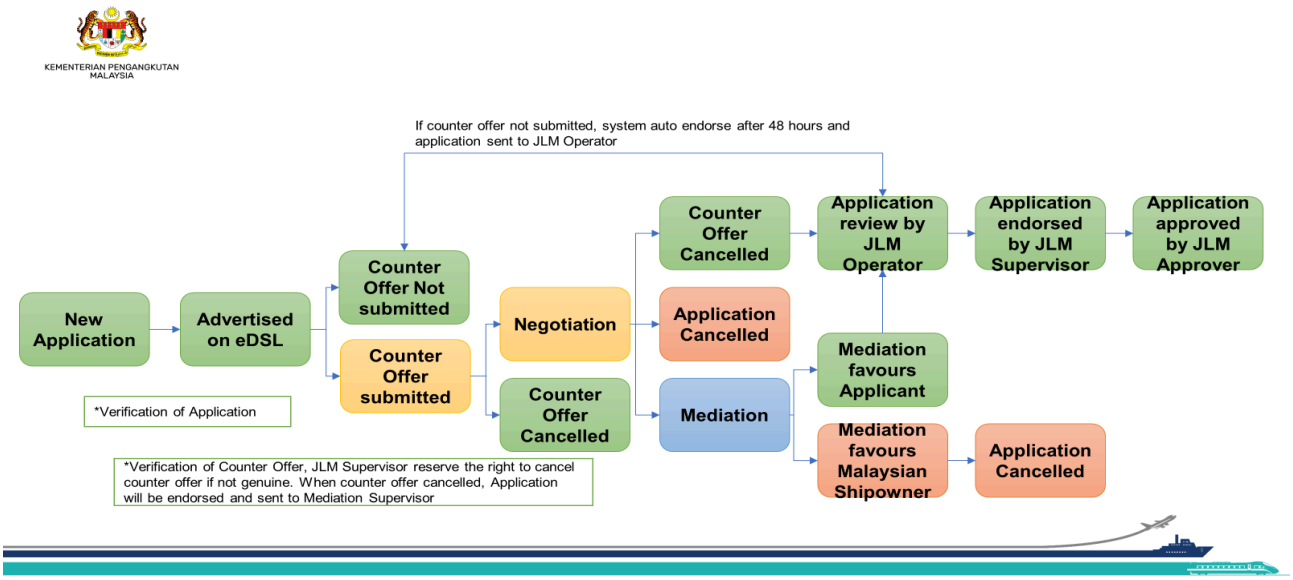
9. TIMELINE OF APPLICATION



- *All new applications must be submitted before 12 pm. Applications that are submitted after 12 pm will be processed the next working day*
- *Foreign vessels are required to apply for DSL at least 2 weeks before laycan*

19

10. OVERVIEW OF PROCESSES



39

APPENDIX A

LIST OF VESSELS UNDER EACH APPLICATION TYPE

NO.	TYPE OF APPLICATION	TYPE OF VESSEL
1.	**A (Bunkering)**	• Oil Tanker (for bunkering purpose only)
2.	**B (Product Tanker)**	• Oil Tanker, • LNG/LPG Carrier, • Chemical Tanker, • Palm Oil Carrier, • FSU/FPU/FPSO, • Liquid Bulk Carrier
3.	**C (Cargo Vessel)**	• Containerized Cargo, • Livestock, • General Cargo, • Dangerous Goods, • Dry Bulk Carrier
4.	**D (Offshore Support Vessel)**	• AHT / AHTS, • Accommodation Work Barge/ Boat, • Accommodation Pipe Lay Barge, • Fast Crew Boat, • SSV/Platform Supply Vessel (PSV), • Landing Craft Tank, • Tug /Utility/ Standby, • Cable Laying Vessel/Cable Repair Vessel • Offshore Tug/Supply Vessel, • Multi-Purpose Support Vessel (MPSV),

NO.	TYPE OF APPLICATION	TYPE OF VESSEL
		• Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit (MODU), • Mobile Offshore Production Unit (MOPU), • Diving Support Vessel, • Offshore Survey Vessel, • Seismic Survey Vessel, • Bathymetric Survey Vessel • Geological Survey Vessel • Drilling Rig • Offshore Platform/Structure
5.	**E (Tug and Barge)**	• Tug • Harbour Tug • Barge
6.	**F (Others)**	• Passenger • Dredger • Others