

THE WATERWAY PERMIT

In order to sail on the navigable waterways in Flanders, certain vessels require a waterway permit. The waterway permit is a digital permit. De Vlaamse Waterweg nv is continuing to strive for 'paperless sailing'. Not only is this good for the environment, it is also more efficient. This enables you to easily apply for or renew your digital waterway permit online at www.visuris.be/waterwegvergunning.



FOR WHICH VESSELS?

The waterway permit applies to vessels that:

- are suitable for carrying passengers but which do not operate for profit (i.e. not for paying passengers);
- exceed 6 metres and/or sail faster than 20 km per hour;
- are sailing in or are moored at a berth, with or without a permit or concession, on navigable waterways in the Flemish Region.

You do not require a waterway permit on the Ghent-Terneuzen canal, the Bruges-Zeebrugge canal, the Grensleie, the Common Meuse,

the Beneden-Zeeschelde (Lower Scheldt Estuary) and the Scheldt-Rhine link, in the Antwerp City Harbour and in the coastal yacht harbours.



- Every moored vessel must also have a valid waterway permit.
- Information about the waterway permit for houseboats, this can be found at www.vlaamsewaterweg.be/woonboten.

HOW MUCH DOES A WATERWAY PERMIT COST?

You can apply for a waterway permit for a day, a number of days or months, or for a year. You therefore decide when your waterway permit will start and for how long this will be valid.

The amount you have to pay is calculated based on five daily rates. These daily rates depend on the method of purchase: through the telephone counter or online.

DAILY RATES 2023 (INDEXED ANNUALLY)

	Daily rate: Day 1	Daily rate: Days 2 to 7	Daily rate: Days 8 to 30	Daily rate: Days 31 to 90	Daily rate: Days 91 to 365
Rates (€/m/day) Online purchase	1,7324	0,5775	0,1925	0,0624	0,0128
Rates (€/m/day) Telephone counter	2,1655	0,7218	0,2407	0,0803	0,0161

The amount due is calculated based on the hull length of the vessel, the number of days (maximum 365 days) and the speed of the vessel. For a vessel that is able to sail faster than 20 km/hour, 6 metres is added to the hull length when the permit is applied for.

Example: vehicle 10 metres, permit for 80 days, no high-speed shipping:
 10x (1x daily rate 1 day + 6x daily rate 2-7 days + 23x daily rate 8-30 days + 50x daily rate 31-90 days)

Every vessel, whether sailing or moored, has to have a valid waterway permit. De Vlaamse Waterweg nv ensures that vessels have this permit on the waterways, in the marinas and during passage through movable bridges and locks.

If a vessel does not have the correct waterway permit (no permit, an expired permit, incorrect length, no high-speed sailing, etc.)

a lump-sum payment will be charged that is equivalent to twice the regular cost of a waterway permit for 365 days according to the hull length and speed of the relevant vessel, subject to a minimum amount of EUR 250, plus the administration costs for collecting the lump-sum payment. The lump-sum payment exempts the owner from purchasing a waterway permit for 365 days.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR A PERMIT?

You can easily apply for your waterway permit at www.visuris.be/waterwegenvergunning. You will find useful instruction videos here, as well as answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) and information about the purchase through the telephone counter.

