



## Workboats and Cargo Carrying – policy, definitions and discounts

This paper sets out the policy, definitions and discounts pertaining to workboats and cargo carrying. It has been prepared in consultation with representatives of the Commercial Boat Owners Association (CBOA).

### Workboats

A ‘workboat’ is one that is used for waterway maintenance tasks or private towing contracts. The definition includes tugs, crane barges, dredgers, hoppers, workflats, survey boats, construction site safety boats and dumb barges.

A ‘working boat’ is one engaged in trading or cargo carrying and we will return to these later in the document. Mobile engineers and mechanics are included in this sector.

Workboats can be used for a wide range of uses. Broadly speaking, these are either what we refer to as ‘qualifying waterway maintenance work’ (e.g. carrying plant or materials to construction sites) or ‘commercial’ work (e.g. private towing and salvage).

There are many workboats on the network that are used exclusively for ‘**qualifying waterway maintenance work**’. This is defined as follows:

***“Work on waterway infrastructure, structures or development sites adjacent to the waterway under contract to Canal & River Trust, another statutory undertaker or a private contractor, providing that the work is undertaken from or involves direct access from the craft operating on the waterway”.***

Boats that are engaged exclusively in this kind of work and meet the other criteria given below are entitled to a Discounted Workboat Licence. There are two reasons for offering a discount to boats doing only this kind of work: the first is that the work is almost always of a temporary nature with long gaps between uses and the second is that it remains desirable for licences for these boats to be priced in such a way that, wherever possible, boats can be used as a viable alternative to road transport to move personnel, plant and materials to and from construction sites.

There are also workboats (usually powered tugs) that are used for commercial work. This can include towing broken down boats to boatyards, moving recently sold boats from one location to another and removing unlicensed boats from the waterway. Boats used for these purposes (even if in addition to qualifying work) do not qualify for a discount and must take out a standard Business Licence.

Workboats used as accommodation are ineligible for the discounted 'workboat' licence. This is because these boats are being used for private purposes as well as waterway maintenance and as such the business boat licence must be paid in full.

**A Discounted Workboat licence will be given to workboats meeting the following criteria:**

- a) It is used only for qualifying waterway maintenance work (as defined above)***
- b) It has no overnight accommodation and no one ever spends the night on board***
- c) It is never used to carry out private towing contracts or the removal of boats from the waterway.***

The cost of the Discounted Workboat Licence is published annually and rises on 1 April each year.

Operators submitting false declarations will be required to pay the full licence fee with immediate effect and will not be granted any further discounts on licences for any commercial craft for a period of five years.

## **Cargo Carrying**

**Definition of Cargo Carrying:**

***“Cargo Carrying is the transportation of a cargo owned by the operator or a third party that is unrelated to a specific, time limited construction project, from one place to another<sup>1</sup>. Operators wishing to carry cargo on Cruising or Remainder waterways will require a Business Licence which is to be paid for at the published rate. The Freight Regulations will apply only on designated Commercial Waterways. The carrying of goods for retail sale along the waterway is considered to be Trading and must be authorised accordingly”.***

## **Mooring guidance**

Please note that all boats are required to have a Home Mooring or to follow the 'Guidance for Boaters without a home mooring' if kept on Trust waters. A Workboat may have a Home Mooring off Trust waters or it may be craned out between contracts. Although Workboats may legitimately need to stay in one location where work is actually taking place for longer than 14 days in some cases, they may not be 'laid up' without charge between jobs.

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<sup>1</sup> The carriage of goods or materials to or from a construction site meets the criteria for the discounted workboat licence described above.