

Summary of escort operation

1. The escort operation is provided for merchant vessels between designated Point A and C (in monsoon, Point A and B) in consideration of the slowest vessel among those to be escorted; however, the lower speed limit is 12 knots.
2. Prior to application for escort, the related person(s) or organization (ship operator, ship owner, ship manager, beneficiary ship owner, shipper, or any other) must pre-register with the MLIT basic information on the merchant vessel needing to be escorted.
Pre-registration must be made at least seven days before the commencement date of the escort operation you require.
Application for escort must be made absolutely no less than **three days** before the commencement date of the escort operation you require.
Application is available from 9:00 to 17:00 (N.B. Japanese time: GMT + 9 hrs), from Monday to Friday. Please note that the application deadline is Friday when the commencement date of escort operation is Tuesday or Wednesday.
3. For pre-registration and application, download the forms from the following Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) website, fill in the forms and submit them to the MLIT Anti-Piracy Contact and Coordination Office (INFO-PIRACY@mlit.go.jp) by E-mail. After that, you will receive a notification from the MLIT on whether the vessel is entitled to be escorted.
You are requested to fill in an application form to the maximum extent possible. If there are any columns for which you cannot provide information at the time of application (including the provision of ship photos, etc.), submit such information to the operation team together with the receipt notice of "escort formation" described below.
MLIT web-site: http://www.mlit.go.jp/en/maritime/maritime_fr2_000000.html
4. Make sure to re-submit the pre-registration whenever relevant circumstances change.
5. Use the ID and Password that will be provided by the Ministry of Defense after pre-registration with the MLIT to check the MSDF escort schedule on the MSDF website.
6. Note that the escort operation may be cancelled or the schedule may change for any reason.
7. Make sure not to provide any false descriptions in the pre-registration/application to the MLIT. If any intentional provision of false information is found, the vessel will no longer be entitled to be escorted in future operations, in principle.
8. Note that an application for escort does not guarantee that your vessel will be entitled to be escorted.
9. there is no availability for escort, Japan-affiliated vessels will be given priority.
10. The operation team will notify the vessel to be escorted of the "escort formation" by 0:00 (N.B. Japanese time: GMT + 9 hrs) on the date of commencement of escort, in principle.
11. A vessel is entitled to be escorted provided it notifies the operation team of the receipt of the "escort formation" notification by 12:00 (N.B. Japanese time: GMT + 9 hrs) on the commencement date of escort.
12. Note that in principle the vessel is not entitled to be escorted if it cannot be at the designated point or if it fails to notify the operation team of the receipt of the "escort formation" notification, even though the "escort formation" notification was received from the operation team.
13. Make sure to follow the instruction of the operation team after you notify the operation team of the receipt of an "escort formation" notification. If you don't follow the instruction, you are not entitled to be escorted, in principle.
14. Make sure to contact the operation team if, for any reason, you refuse the escort or cannot be at the designated point by the commencement of escort after receiving an "escort formation" notification from the operation team. If you fail to do so, the Government will not accept your future applications for escort, in principle.
15. Note that the escort does NOT guarantee the safety of vessels; each vessel should watch for the threat of piracy attacks, in accordance with the "Best Management Practices" recommended by the International Maritime Organization (IMO).
16. Note that the name of the vessel may be made public, if it is attacked by pirates, etc.

17. The Government of Japan will not accept responsibly and will not be held liable for any damages resulting from an escort operation.