



Guidelines for Deployment of Submarine Cables

1) Overview

A submarine cable landing and Passing permit is a crucial authorization for installing and operating undersea fiber optic cables connecting countries and continents, enabling global telecommunications and data transfer. These permits are essential for establishing communication networks and facilitating the exchange of vast amounts of data worldwide. Due to their strategic importance, multiple government agencies are typically involved in permitting. The Federal Government of Somalia has developed the Submarine Fiber Optic cables deployment guidelines to facilitate establishing cabling landing services in the country. The license holders must follow these guidelines to obtain the required authorization to land and pass a submarine fiber optic cable. If additional requirements are imposed by mandated government agencies not covered in these guidelines, the applicant must also meet those.

Obtaining a submarine cable landing or passing permit, a crucial authorization for undersea fiber optic cables involves a multiagency effort. It begins with a project proposal and planning phase, where a telecommunications company or consortium presents detailed plans and route maps, collaborating closely with the National Communications Authority of Somalia government and other ministries/agencies. The subsequent stages include acquiring a license from the NCA, conducting an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to assess potential environmental effects, evaluation by the NCA for technical compliance, involvement of national security and defense agencies to address security concerns, seeking approval from the Ministry of Ports and Marine Resources to ensure safe ship passages and installation, coordination with international bodies for cross-border connections, engagement with local communities when applicable, and finally, obtaining the necessary permit approval after thorough review by all relevant agencies. This process strives to balance connectivity, environmental preservation, national security, and community engagement.

The purpose of this guideline is to provide a structured and standardized framework for the approval, permits, and implementation of submarine cable projects.

2) Summary of the Steps

Any submarine cable landing operator should follow the following steps to obtain the necessary permits and authorizations. Please note that all the following steps should be taken to

Step 1 The applicant must apply for or hold an International Communications Infrastructure Provider license from the National Communications Authority (NCA) of Somalia. The applicant should submit the agreement with a foreign carrier or consortium to the NCA.

Step 2: The applicant must apply for a **security clearance permit** from the Ministry of Internal Security

Step 3: The applicant should obtain a **Survey permit** from the **Ministry of Ports and Marine Transport** to examine the route cable to ensure it is located in the area of the proposed route and prevent any problems with maritime safety

Step 4: The applicant should obtain a Survey permit from the Ministry of **Communications and Technology (MOCT)** and the **National Communications Authority (NCA)**

Step 4: The applicant should obtain an **environmental clearance** and submit a detailed Environmental and Social impact assessment and Audit report to the ministry **Ministry of Environment and Climate Change**.

Step 5: **NCA** will evaluate and verify the above permits and clearances, approve technical reports, and permission for cable landing will be issued.

Step 6: **Oversee and Coordination:** The National Communications Authority oversees the submarine cable landing permit process.

Note – All government agencies require a valid Tax Clearance Certificate before proceeding with any application.

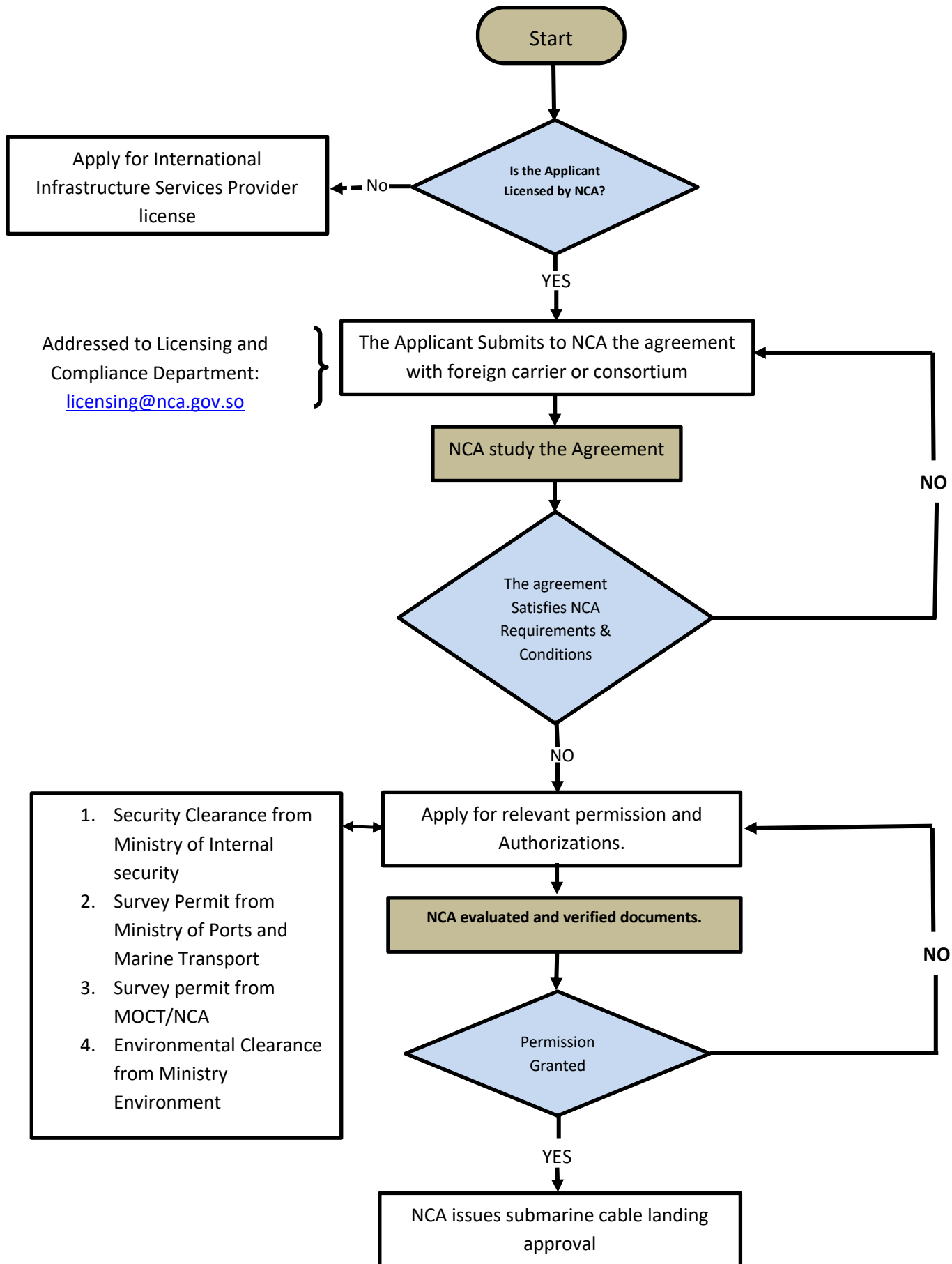
3) General Conditions to all existing submarine cable landing operators.

- All existing submarine cable landing station operators must provide the above requirement and complete any missing permits within 30 days. Penalties will be imposed for those who don't comply.
- All existing submarine cable providers must provide any information requested by government agencies.

4) Compliance with National Security requirements

- All operators must comply with national security requirements, including the installation of network traffic monitoring and surveillance systems at their stations.

The steps are explained in the following chart:



5) Contact Details:

National Communications Authority (NCA)	Email: licensing@nca.gov.so
Ministry of Communications and Technology	Email: dg@moct.gov.so
Ministry of Internal Security	Email: dg@mois.gov.so
Ministry of Environment and Climate change	Email: dg@moecc.gov.so
Ministry of Ports and Marine Transport	Email: dg@mpmt.gov.so

6) Schedule of Penalties and Fines

Violation and Non-compliance type	Penalties
1. Failure to obtain license	USD 500,000
2. Signing agreement without NCA approval	USD 300,000
3. Failure to comply with the regulations and license terms	USD 50,000
4. Failure to obtain permits	USD 200,000 for each permit
5. failure to send maintenance/repair notifications	USD 20,000 - unscheduled maintenance/repair USD 50,000 - Scheduled 50,000
6. Failure to Requirement to provide information	150,000