

Safe Access – Stanchions

The UKMPA, along with other International Pilotage bodies, have noticed an increased number of Pilot boarding incidents connected with non-compliant provisions at deck level.

An area of significant risk has been identified during the transition stage of the climb / descent, where three points of contact are required to be maintained during the process of surface change, such as on reaching deck level or at the launch position.

Particular attention should be made to stanchion handhold provisions and spacing.

Adequate stanchions should be in place to provide a secure handhold for the Pilot to secure themselves onto the vessel or to assist with disembarking the vessel.

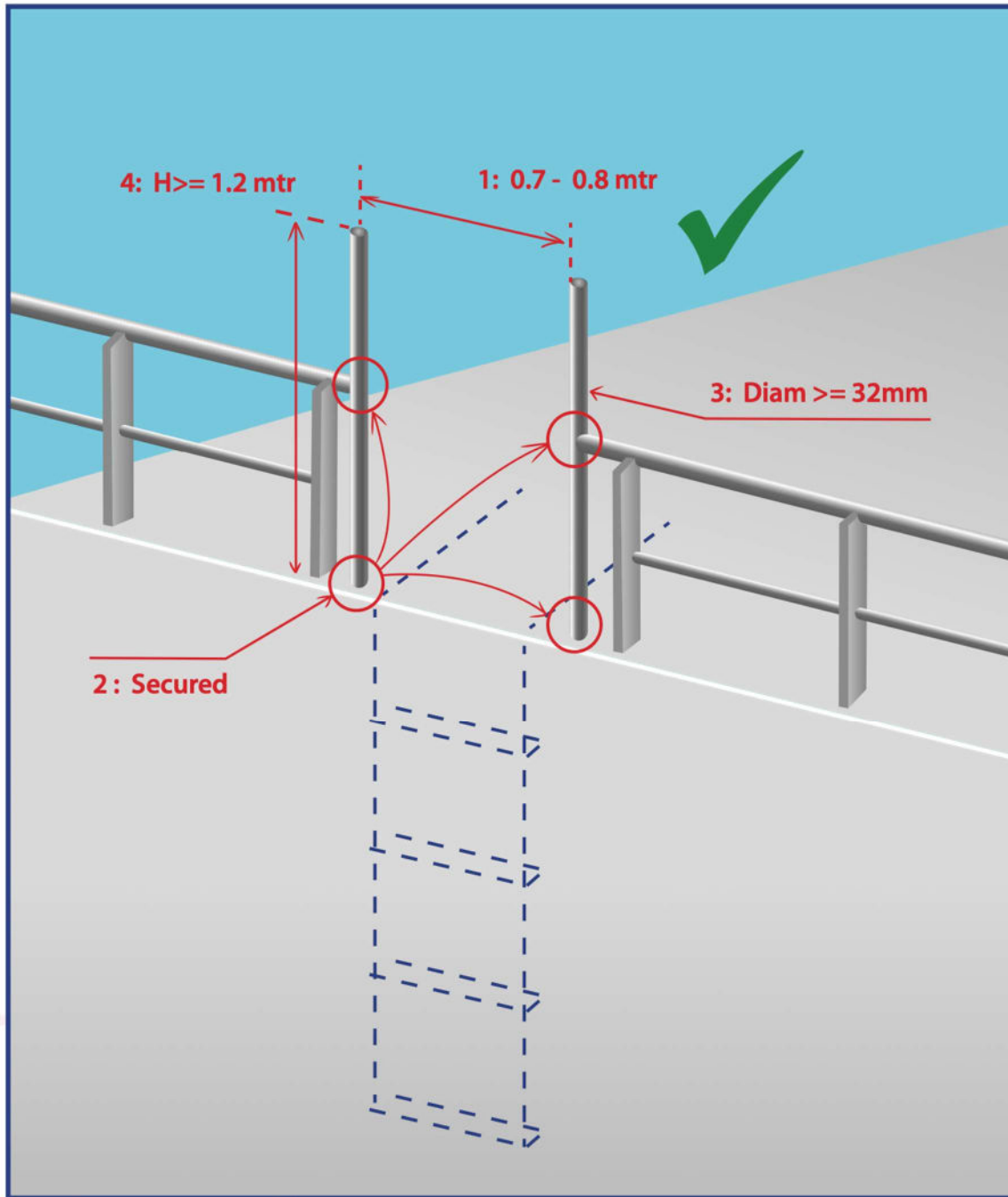
SOLAS Chapter V Reg. 23 and IMO Resolution A.1045(27) states:

- Stanchions to be at least 1.2 metres above the deck/bulwark.
 - To be a minimum of 70 cm and maximum of 80 cm apart.
 - Stanchions are to have a minimum diameter of 32mm, in order to provide a firm grip. *(ISO 799-3:2022 now also details a maximum diameter of 36mm though it is unlikely to be implemented by the IMO until 2028)*
 - Each stanchion to be rigidly secured at or near the base and at a higher point. *(There shouldn't be a gap at the base of the stanchion to facilitate rigging for the spreaders)*
-

It is imperative that the vessels provisions are identified as compliant before use. All current regulations are available on the UKMPA App which can be verified if there is any doubt with an arrangement, and a guidance diagram has been produced to clarify the requirements.

Ensure appropriate PPE, as identified in Annex 2 of the Code of Safe Practice for the Embarkation and Disembarkation of Pilots, is worn so you are best equipped for the climbing process.

Remember every vessel MUST provide you with a safe access – if it doesn't look right – don't use it.



Yours faithfully,
The Executive Committee

