



EMPA

EUROPEAN MARITIME PILOTS' ASSOCIATION vzw

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EMPA RECOMMENDATION ON TRAINING OF MARITIME PILOTS FOR HELICOPTER/SHIP SHORE OPERATIONS

Introduction

In many ports throughout the World, regular use of helicopters takes place for the transfer of Marine Pilots to and from ships.

Before establishing a helicopter service, much attention must be devoted to the safety implications of "landing-on", "winching" operations.

The transfer of marine pilots by helicopter has become a routine operation for some pilot organisations and familiarity should not be allowed to compromise safety standards for the helicopter, the pilot, the ship or its personnel.

Safety is paramount and helicopter operations must never be initiated without a full understanding of the risks.

Consideration

Taking into account:

- Accidents and incidents during helicopter pilot transfers.
- Risks involved in pilot helicopter pilot transfer operations.
- Safety of maritime pilots, helicopter and shipboard crews.

Policy

- The role of EMPA is to facilitate the exchange of information between its members to continuously improve the professional and technical proficiency of Maritime Pilots in its Member Associations, Pilots within the EU, and in neighbouring countries.
- EMPA aims to assure the safety of all Maritime Pilots in the EU and neighbouring countries by increasing the safety and efficiency of navigation, thereby enhancing environmental protection from ship-borne pollutants.
- EMPA strongly defends and advocates that Pilotage as an essential and unique service to the shipping industry, can only be performed in an environment free from competition.
- EMPA aims to work at the forefront of our profession and collaborate with all stakeholders.
- EMPA recommendations offer practical advice, drawing from its members' collective knowledge and experience, to be read in addition to local, national, and international regulations. These recommendations provide information to Pilots, shipowners, and Captains, advising also, stakeholders that directly or indirectly impact the maritime industry.



- EMPA recommendations should be read in conjunction with equipment instructions and manuals. These recommendations are to support training, not replace training and are not to be interpreted as conflicting with local, national, or international regulations.
- A thorough risk assessment must be carried out to find the most adequate PPE for each Pilot. This must take into consideration the different seasons of the year, physiognomy, and type of utilisation.
- Pilots are responsible to keep they equipment in good condition and report any deficiencies and on the other hand the employers must provide the appropriate equipment and adequate training including the various levels of protection and maintenance routines.
- Members Associations should ensure that Pilots will be involved by Pilotage Authority/Service Provider in testing and choosing of PPE.

EMPA Recommends:

- Pilots must have the adequate training before the helicopter is used for transfer purposes is essential.
- Each pilot organisation is advised to develop a training program which includes at least the following topics:
 - General and local relevant helicopter/ship operations related regulations, limitations and procedures
 - Type specific familiarization including the locations and use of emergency and safety gear
 - Landing-on embarkation and disembarkation procedures and limitations
 - Winching embarkation and disembarkation procedures and limitations
 - Emergency preparedness including HUET - Helicopter Underwater Escape Training
- In addition to the training program a pre-flight passenger briefing should be implemented for all passengers in accordance with local aviation regulations.
- The training program and pre-flight passenger briefing should be developed in close consultation with the helicopter operator. The training program is to be repeated at regular intervals and the pre-flight briefing is to be held/watched prior to every flight.
- The International Chamber of Shipping issued the "Guide to Helicopter/Ship Operations" which is a document of reference and provides helpful information.
- As this mean of pilot transfer has several specificities depending on kind of operation, weather, local, helicopter equipment, etc, your association will ned to have a tailormade training.
- For further information regarding examples of training programs please contact: office@empa-pilots.eu and we can advise any EMPA Member Association involved in helicopter transfers.

Adopted by the GM May 1991
 Rev GM 06/07, Rev GM Estoril 03/15
 REV GM Antwerp 04/24

