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Dear Members,

APPROVAL OF THE AMENDMENTS TO SOLAS REGULATION V/23

The Maritime Safety Committee of the IMO has approved the amendments to SOLAS regulation V/23 and the associated mandatory performance standard for pilot transfer arrangements.

The approval considers further modifications proposed by IMPA, in collaboration with the Marshall Islands and New Zealand, which ensure that important provisions, including the maximum height of climb on a pilot ladder, could not be interpreted as being recommendatory.

The next step is adopting the amendments in June 2025 to allow entry into force on 1 January 2028.

In addition, the Maritime Safety Committee:

1. Approved in principle the updated ladder poster and draft revised MSC.1/Circ.1428 submitted by IMPA, with final approval at MSC 110 in June 2025 when the amendments to SOLAS regulation V/23 are adopted; and
2. Agreed to the draft circular on voluntary early implementation of the draft amendments, to be approved at MSC 110 in June 2025. It encourages flag State Administrations to require ships to comply before 1 January 2028. IMPA proposed this to the Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR 11) in June this year, based on the results of the IMPA Safety Survey since 2018.

Action: Members are requested to note the information provided regarding the approval of a robust, mandatory regime for pilot transfer arrangement by the IMO and the next steps.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Williams
Secretary General

Enclosures

1. Approved amendments to SOLAS regulation V/23 and new mandatory performance standards