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MSC.1/Circ.1428/Rev.1
5 September 2025

**REQUIRED PILOT TRANSFER ARRANGEMENTS
FOR PILOTS AND OTHER PERSONNEL**

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its 110th session (18 to 27 June 2025), adopted amendments to SOLAS regulation V/23 on Pilot transfer arrangements (resolution MSC.572(110)) and the *Performance standards for pilot transfer arrangements* (resolution MSC.576(110)) developed at the eleventh session of the Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR) (4 to 13 June 2024).

2 The aforementioned amendments are expected to enter into force on 1 January 2028.

3 The Committee concurred with the recommendation of NCSR 11 regarding the revised required transfer arrangements for pilots and approved a revision to MSC.1/Circ.1428 and the poster previously circulated thereby, as set out in the annex. The illustrations are also available for download from www.impahq.org.

4 Member States are invited to bring the revised illustrations to the attention of their pilots, seafarers, shipowners, ship operators and others concerned with pilot boarding arrangements.

5 This circular should be implemented alongside the amendments to SOLAS regulation V/23 adopted by resolution MSC.572(110) and the *Performance standards for pilot transfer arrangements* adopted by resolution MSC.576(110).

6 MSC.1/Circ.1428 is revoked as of 1 April 2030.

ANNEX

REQUIRED PILOT TRANSFER ARRANGEMENTS

In accordance with SOLAS Chapter V Regulation 23
INTERNATIONAL MARITIME PILOTS' ASSOCIATION
Email: office@impahq.org

This document and all IMO Pilot-related documents are available for download at: www.impahq.org

Scan for more information

PILOT LADDER WINCH REEL

HANDHOLD STANCHIONS shall extend 120cm above deck.

Stanchions Min. 32mm Max. 36mm

Winch Min. 700mm Max. 800mm

NO OBSTRUCTIONS Min. 01.5m

Winch shall be mechanically secured before use.

The pilot ladder shall be secured to a strong point, independent of the pilot ladder winch reel, its distance of action shall be 0.5m minimum horizontally from the ship's side towards the aft.

Ladders shall not be rigged over sharp edges or corners. A curved surface of a shape such as a half-pipe should be used to prevent the rope from being damaged by sharp edges or corners.

PILOT TRANSFER ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRAP DOOR AND SIDE DOOR DIAGRAMS CAN BE VIEWED BY SCANNING THE ABOVE QR CODE.

PILOT LADDER

Shall extend at least 2 metres above the lower platform.

The Pilot Ladder and Main-rope, if rigged, shall be secured to the ship's side 1.5m above the platform using turnbuckles, magnetic or pneumatic system.

The lower platform shall be rigged as requested by the Pilot service, with both an inboard and outboard stanchion.

Lower platform shall be horizontal.

Lower platform shall be rigged with both an inboard and outboard stanchion.

0.3m

2m

2m

0 metres forward mark

STERN BOW

ACCOMMODATION LADDER

Accommodation ladder shall be secured to ship's side (Using turnbuckles or approved mechanical system)

RIGGING WHEN POINT OF ACCESS IS 9 METRES OR LESS ABOVE THE WATER

HANDHOLD STANCHIONS shall extend 120cm above deck.

Stanchions Min. 32mm Max. 36mm

Distance between handholds Min. 700mm Max. 800mm

PILOT LADDER AND MAIN-ROPE shall be secured to strong points on deck.

SPREADER Min. 180cm long

MAXIMUM 8 STEPS

ALL STEPS shall extend fully against ship's side and shall be horizontal.

Min. 40cm

31-35cm equally spaced

Retrieval line shall lead forward

5th STEP From bottom shall be a spreader

Height above water required by Pilot

6 METRES undisturbed step side

RIGGING WHEN POINT OF ACCESS IS MORE THAN 9 METRES ABOVE WATER

PILOT LADDER Shall extend at least 2 metres above the lower platform.

The Pilot Ladder and Main-rope, if rigged, shall be secured to the ship's side 1.5m above the platform using turnbuckles, magnetic or pneumatic system.

The lower platform shall be rigged as requested by the Pilot service, with both an inboard and outboard stanchion.

Lower platform shall be horizontal.

Lower platform shall be rigged with both an inboard and outboard stanchion.

0.3m

2m

2m

0 metres forward mark

STERN BOW

Pilot ladders shall be secured at intermediate lengths by a device type approved for the purpose, which prevents any slippage of the side ropes and has a breaking strain of not less than 48kN.

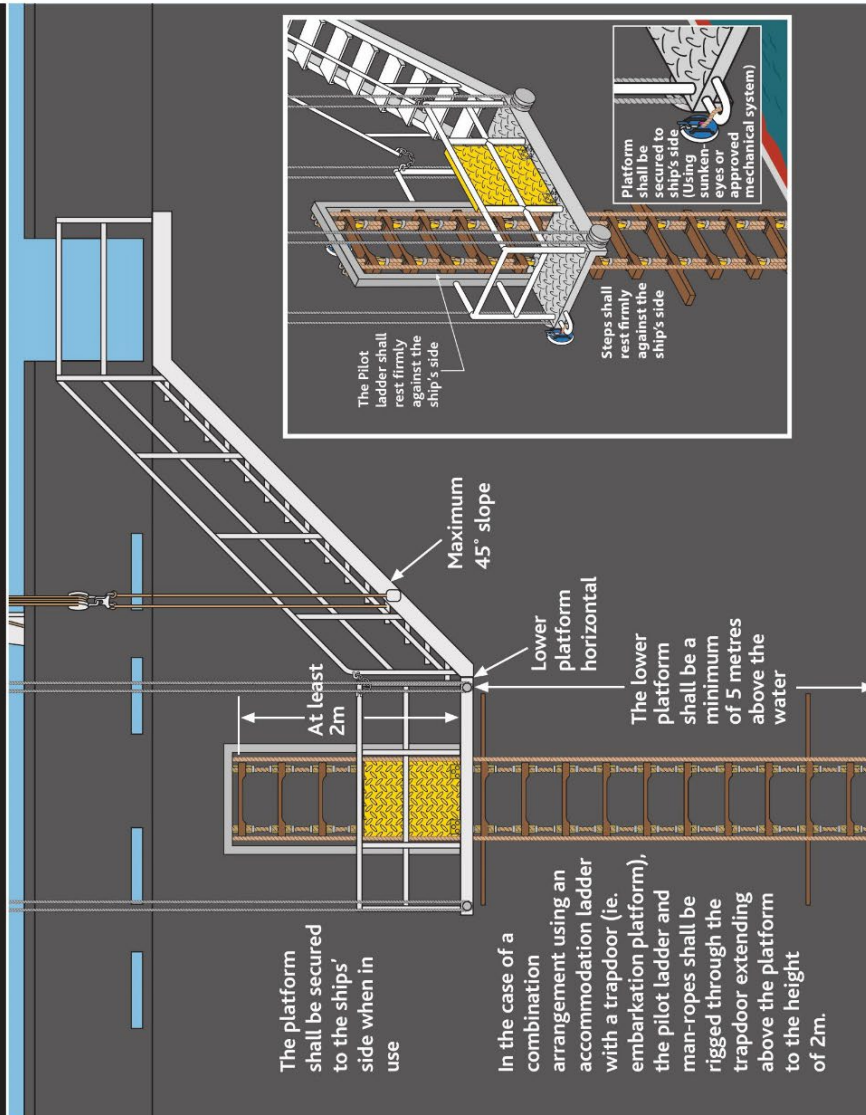
REQUIRED PILOT TRANSFER ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRAP DOOR AND SIDE DOOR



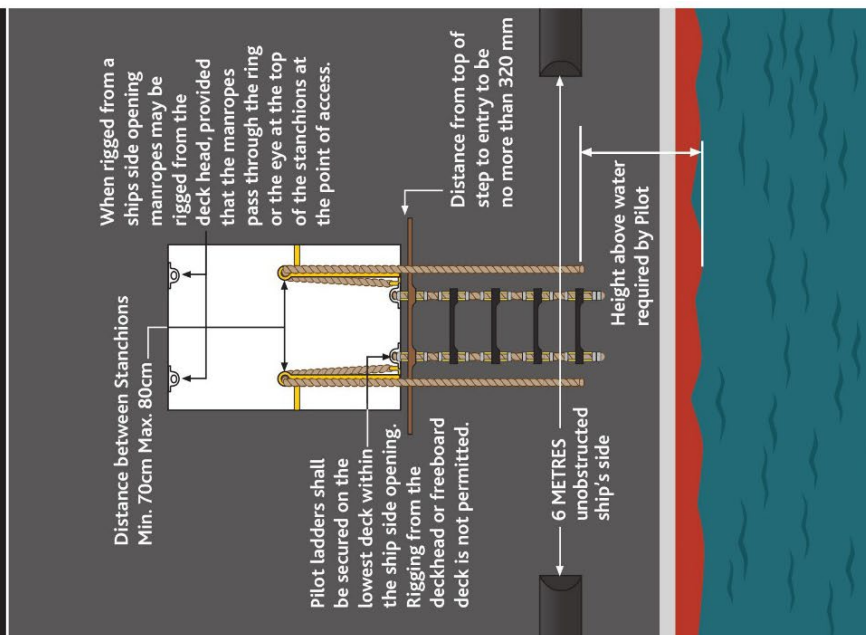
In accordance with SOLAS Chapter V Regulation 23
INTERNATIONAL MARITIME PILOTS' ASSOCIATION

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ACCOMMODATION LADDER (TRAP DOOR ARRANGEMENT)



SIDE DOOR ARRANGEMENT



NON-COMPLIANT PRACTICES



INTERNATIONAL
MARITIME
ORGANIZATION

In accordance with SOLAS Chapter V Regulation 23
INTERNATIONAL MARITIME PILOTS' ASSOCIATION

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