

## **Requirements for the Safe Use, Care and Maintenance of Pilot Ladders, Man Ropes, and Associated Equipment**

**Number: PH 14 / 23 (P)**

**Date Issued: 14/11/2023**

<b>Date of Effect:</b>	14 November 2023
<b>Details:</b>	Requirements for the Safe Use, Care and Maintenance of Pilot Ladders, Man Ropes, and Associated Equipment
<b>Former Notice:</b>	12/22 (P)
<b>Charts &amp; Publications:</b>	N/A
<b>Further Notice:</b>	N/A
<b>Attachment:</b>	Attachment 1: Frequently Asked Questions

### **Objective:**

In an endeavour to have continuous improvement and enhance safety onboard the vessels calling Port Hedland, Pilbara Ports Authority has revised the procedures for use of pilot ladder in Port Hedland. This notice supersedes the Local Marine Notice 12/22 (P) issued on 20 December 2022.

Pilbara Port Authority shall continue to monitor the condition of pilot transfers on vessels calling port Hedland. Vessel owners, operator, Masters, crew, and other stake holders are required to comply with Pilot transfer criteria set out in this Marine notice.

This notice also serves as a gentle reminder that improper use of a pilot ladder or using a substandard pilot ladder can have profound consequences, including severe injury or loss of life.

### **Reference:**

- IMO Res. A.1045(27)
- SOLAS Chapter V Reg.23
- IMO Resolution A.1108(29)
- MSC.1/Circ. 1428
- MSC.1/Circ.1495/Rev.1
- AMSA Marine Notice – Pilot Transfer Arrangements (04/2023)
- ARCSOPT Marine Pilot Transfer Arrangements – 03/2023
- ISO 799-1:2019 – Design and Specification
- ISO 799-2:2021 – Maintenance, Use, Survey, And Inspection
- ISO 799-3:2022 – Attachments and Associated Equipment

### **Certification and Marking:**

A pilot ladder shall be certified by the manufacturer as complying with SOLAS V/23 or ISO 799-1:2019. Vessel shall retain onboard an original certificate from the manufacturer. Pilot ladder shall have identification plate clearly indicating date of manufacture and SOLAS V/23 or ISO 799-1:2019 compliant as applicable. Below is an example of identification plate.



### **Maximum permissible age of pilot ladders – 30 months from the date of manufacture:**

Unless the ladder has been subjected to the ladder and step attachment strength test (as prescribed in ISO 799-1:2019).

### **Maximum permissible age of the man ropes – 12 months from the date of manufacture (not from the date of first use):**

Two man ropes of not less than 28 mm and not more than 32 mm in diameter properly secured to the ship if required by the pilot; man-ropes shall be fixed at the rope end to the ring plate fixed on deck and shall be ready for use. Only Grade one manila ropes are permitted.

Vessel shall maintain a relevant certification for man ropes.

### **Securing of pilot ladder:**

Vessel shall comply with IMO Resolution A.1045(27) (as amended) – Pilot transfer arrangements for pilot ladder winch reels, securing, point of access and installation.

In light draft condition, the pilot ladder is secured at thimble end with shackles. However, due to the varying freeboard, it would not be possible to secure the pilot ladder at thimbles. Under such circumstances it must be secured at an intermediate length. This can be done in a safe way by ensuring that the weight of the ladder is transferred from ladder's side ropes to the approved strong point on deck directly.

Steps, spreaders, or chocks should not be used to carry the weight of the ladder as they are not designed for this and do not have sufficient strength. Moreover, they may damage the ladder and exert stress on the parts of the ladder which are not designed as end weight bearing component of the ladder. It is common industry practice to use a rope stopper usually in the form of a rolling hitch knot between the pilot ladder sides ropes and the approved strong point

on the main deck. This will transfer the weight of the ladder arrangement directly onto the designated strong point and will not damage the ladder.

It is suggested that two strong (at least 2 x 24 kN) manila ropes be used to secure the pilot ladder. Securing lines must be replaced at 12 months interval.



**Example of correct securing of pilot ladder at intermittent Draft**



**Example of incorrect securing of pilot ladder at intermediate draft**



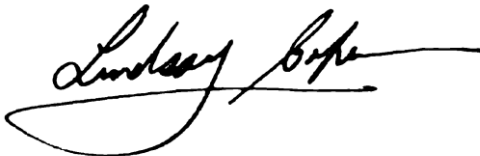
**Additionally, Vessel operators, Masters and crew shall comply with following:**

Vessel operators to provide ship-specific guidance to the vessel's crew on: Storage, care, inspection and maintenance of the pilot ladders, man ropes, and all the other associated equipment including combination (pilot assist) ladders.

All Pilot ladders, man ropes and associated equipment are to be used exclusively for marine transfers and to be marked as 'For Marine Transfers only.'

Original certificates issued by the certifying authority for all the pilot ladders, man ropes, securing and lifting arrangements to be retained onboard.

Kind Regards,



Lindsay Copeman  
**Harbour Master (Port Hedland)**

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## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Can the pilot ladder be used after 30 months from the date it is received on board?**

Yes, the pilot ladder can be used after 30 months from the date it is received on board if it passes a ladder and step attachment strength test as per ISO -799-1.

### **Who can conduct the ladder and step attachment strength test?**

The ladder and step attachment strength test must be conducted by the manufacturer or at a facility approved by the manufacturer, the vessel's Flag State or Classification Society.

### **What is the validity of the ladder and step attachment strength test?**

The ladder and step attachment strength test must be conducted at intervals not exceeding 30 months. The pilot ladder will be considered unacceptable if the ladder and step attachment strength test is older than 30 months.

### **Can vessel's crew conduct repairs to the pilot ladder?**

It is not permitted for crew to conduct repairs on pilot ladder, repairs must only be carried out by the manufacturer or at a manufacturer approved repair facility, or a facility approved by the flag state or a classification society.

### **What is the replacement period for man ropes?**

Man ropes must be replaced 12 months from the date of manufacture. Use of man ropes 12 months after the date of manufacture is not permitted.

### **If the vessel carries out marine pilot transfer by helicopter, is a compliant pilot ladder still required?**

Yes, marine pilot transfers can be carried out by pilot boat or helicopter, as per operational requirements and the method of pilot boarding can change at short notice. Therefore, all vessels are required to comply with this Local Marine Notice.