

Port of Port Hedland – Vessel Safe Access Accommodation Ladders

Number: 04/26

Date: 14/08/2026

Date of effect:	Immediate
Details:	Vessel Safe Access - Accommodation Ladders
Former notice:	MSB 02/2017 - Superseded
Attachments:	NA

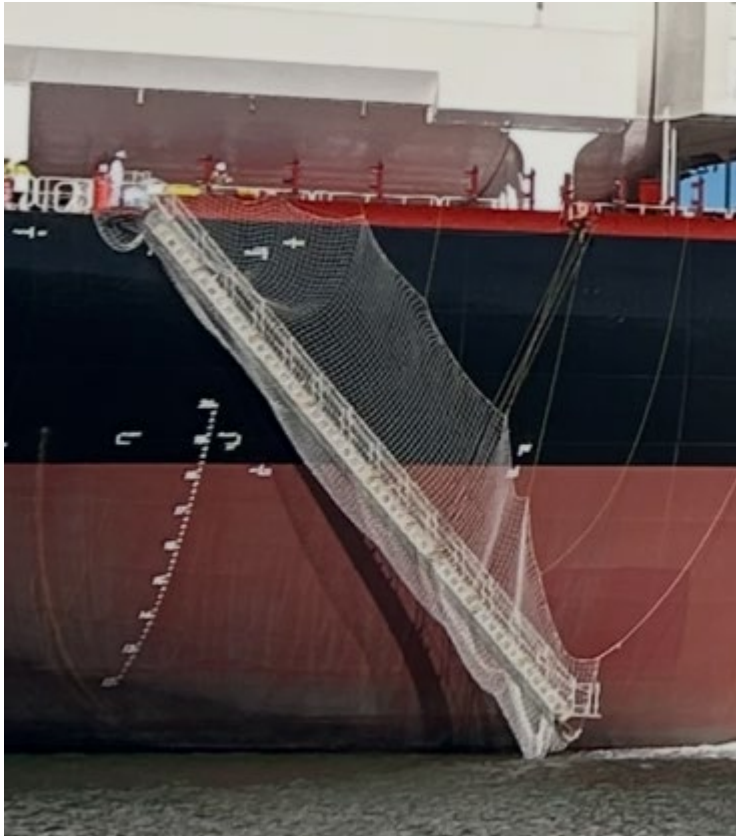
Safe access to and from a vessel is a key shipboard operation and must be managed through the vessel's safety management system. Access arrangements may be affected by berth configuration, tidal variation, changes in vessel draft, weather and vessel movement.

At Port Hedland berths, the configuration of shore infrastructure may not permit an accommodation ladder or gangway to be landed ashore. Where an accommodation ladder remains suspended, the Master remains responsible for ensuring that the arrangement is suitable, correctly rigged, maintained and safe for use.

1. SAFE ACCESS REQUIREMENTS

Before any person embarks or disembarks, and throughout the period of use, the Master must ensure that:

- The accommodation ladder or gangway is class approved for its intended use and operated within its design limitations and permitted angle of inclination.
- The arrangement is rigged in accordance with the vessel's approved plans, manufacturer instructions, applicable statutory requirements and Classification Society requirements.
- Hoisting wires, winches, sheaves, platforms, stanchions, fittings, securing points and associated equipment are maintained and inspected under the vessel's Plan Maintenance System and Pre-berthing checklists.
- The arrangement is inspected before use and monitored while in use, with adjustments made for changes in tide, vessel draft, weather and vessel movement.
- Adequate lighting, lifebuoys and safety netting are provided where required.
- The berth interface, shore obstructions, clearances and the gap between the vessel and berth are assessed and controlled.
- Access is immediately withdrawn if the arrangement becomes unsafe, damaged, ineffective or uncertain.
- The operation must be supported with adequate crew in attendance .



2. SUSPENDED ACCOMMODATION LADDERS

Where berth configuration requires an accommodation ladder to remain suspended, the Master must confirm that the ladder is suitable for the proposed arrangement and that the associated risks are addressed through the vessel's safety management system. Particular attention must be given to equipment condition, hoisting and suspension components, tidal range, draft changes, weather, vessel movement and continuous monitoring.

3. UNSAFE ACCESS AND NOTIFICATION

Where safe access cannot be provided or maintained, the arrangement must not be used. The Master must establish an alternative safe means of access and promptly advise the terminal and vessel agent.

Port Hedland VTS must also be advised where the matter affects pilotage, a vessel movement or port operations. Pilbara Ports may request evidence that the access arrangement is safe and compliant and may require an unsafe arrangement to be rectified before use.

4. RESPONSIBILITY

The Master remains responsible for the rigging, inspection, maintenance and safe use of the vessel's means of access.

Nothing in this Local Marine Notice removes or limits any obligation imposed by applicable legislation, the vessel's flag State, Classification Society, approved plans, manufacturer instructions or safety management system.

For further information or clarification regarding this notice, please contact the Harbour Master Team.

Thank you for your attention and commitment to maintaining the safety and efficiency of Pilbara Ports.



**Behrouz Daei Zadeh
Harbour Master East (Port Hedland)**