

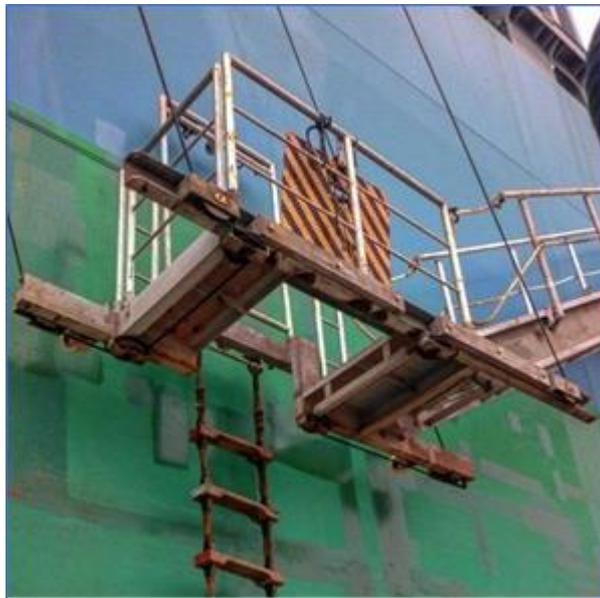
## NOTICE TO MARINERS

No 08 (T) of 2021

### **Port of Southampton – Pilot Boarding and Disembarking Vessels – Non-compliant ‘Trap Door’ Arrangements**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that some ships have a pilot transfer arrangement consisting of an accommodation ladder / pilot ladder combination with a trapdoor that does not meet IMO standards in effect since at least 2012. Southampton Pilots have been reminded that they may refuse to use a pilot transfer arrangement that they reasonably believe is unsafe, particularly the offending trapdoor arrangement. All vessels with a trapdoor arrangement are urged to bring their arrangements into compliance with the current IMO standards as soon as possible in order to avoid potential disruptions to ship schedules and port operations.

The relevant documents are SOLAS V Regulation 23, IMO Resolution A. 1045 (27) and guidance from Embarkation & Disembarkation of Pilots Code of Safe Practice.

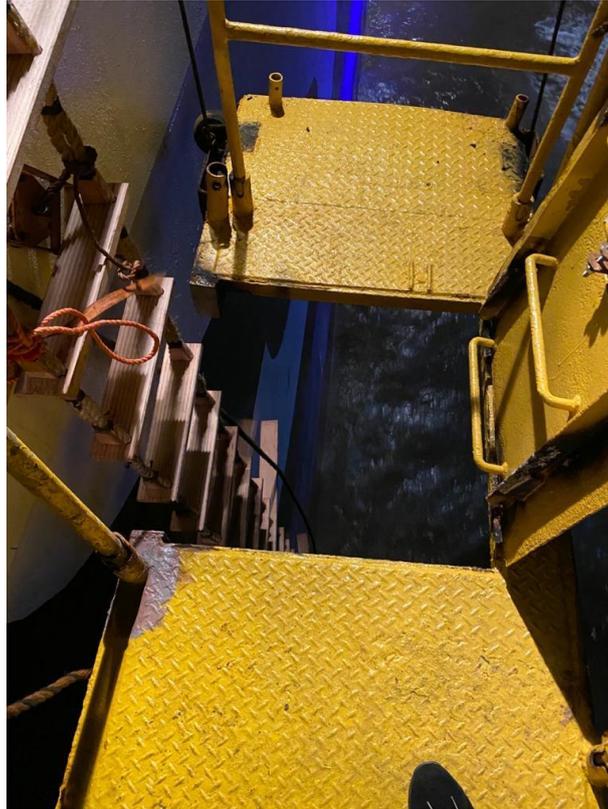


*Fig 1: Non-compliant Arrangement*

The arrangement at figure 1 is non-compliant because:

- The pilot ladder is not rigged to extend through the trapdoor and secured 1½ metres above the bottom platform (SOLAS 3.3.2.1). The method of securing the ladder to the underside of the platform shown in the figure is dangerous because the transition from the pilot ladder is done via an uneven step height.
- The horizontal cross member to which the pilot ladder is secured is a distraction from using the side ropes when transitioning onto the pilot ladder when disembarking.

- The pilot ladder steps cannot rest firmly against the ship's side, due to the nylon wheels attached on the inboard side of the bottom platform.
- The 'sloping ladder' is not securely attached to the hull.



*Fig 2: Compliant Arrangement*

Guidance is available in "Shipping Industry Guidance on Pilot Transfer Arrangements, Ensuring Compliance with SOLAS" to be found at [www.ics-shipping.org](http://www.ics-shipping.org).

This Notice remains in force until cancelled.

**Vessel Traffic Services Centre  
Ocean Gate, Atlantic Way  
Southampton**

**Steven Masters  
Harbour Master**

01<sup>st</sup> January 2021

**Owners, Agents, Charterers, Marinas, Yacht Clubs and Recreational Sailing Organisations should ensure that the contents of this Notice are made known to the masters or persons in charge of their vessels or craft.**

