SC 257
(Nov 2012)

Pilot Transfer Arrangements (SOLAS V/23 as amended by Resolution MSC.308(88))

SOLAS V/23.3.3 (Pilot Transfer Arrangements):

Safe and convenient access to, and egress from, the ship shall be provided by either:

> .1 *a pilot ladder requiring a climb of not less than 1.5 m and not more than 9 m above the surface of the water so positioned and secured that:*
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>> .4 *the single length of pilot ladder is capable of reaching the water from the point of access to, or egress from, the ship and due allowance is made for all conditions of loading and trim of the ship, and for an adverse list of 15°; the securing strong point, shackles and securing ropes shall be at least as strong as the side ropes; or*
>
> .2 *an accommodation ladder in conjunction with the pilot ladder (i.e. a combination arrangement), or other equally safe and convenient means, whenever the distance from the surface of the water to the point of access to the ship is more than 9 m.*

Interpretation

1. SOLAS V/23.3.3.1 limits the climb to not more than 9 m on a single ladder relative to the still water line which is considered a normal condition for the pilot to board the ship. "*Due allowance*" for adverse list of 15° applies to an emergency condition and permits a pilot climb more than 9 m by an additional length of pilot ladder.

2. SOLAS V/23.3.3.2 and Section 3 of Resolution A.1045(27) applies to a combined arrangement of "*an accommodation ladder used in conjunction with the pilot ladder*" for "*Safe and convenient access to, and egress from, the ship*" for which a 15° list requirement does not apply.

Notes:

1.   This Unified Interpretation is to be uniformly implemented by IACS Societies on ships contracted for construction on or after 1 July 2013.

2.   The "contracted for construction" date means the date on which the contract to build the vessel is signed between the prospective owner and the shipbuilder. For further details regarding the date of "contract for construction", refer to IACS Procedural Requirement (PR) No.29.

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