

SC 257 Pilot Transfer Arrangements (SOLAS V/23 as amended by Resolution MSC.308(88))

(Nov 2012)
(Corr.1 Apr 2013)
(Rev.1 Oct 2016)

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:*
 - .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

Sub-paragraphs 1 and 2 of SOLAS regulation V/23.3.3. address two different and distinct arrangements - the former when only a pilot ladder is provided; the latter when a combined arrangement of "an accommodation ladder used in conjunction with the pilot ladder" is provided.

1. SOLAS regulation V/23.3.3.1 prescribes an operational instruction that limits the climb to not more than 9m on a single ladder regardless of the trim or list of the ship.
2. SOLAS regulation 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. Changes introduced in Rev.1 are for the purpose of clarification to avoid any misunderstanding and therefore do not require a new implementation date.
3. 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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