INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION

E

ALBERT EMBANKMENT
LONDON SE1 7SR
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7735 7611 Fax: +44 (0)20 7587 3210

MSC.1/Circ.1495
21 November 2014

UNIFIED INTERPRETATION OF SOLAS REGULATION V/23.3.3

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its ninety-fourth session (17 to 21 November 2014), approved a unified interpretation of SOLAS regulation V/23.3.3 on Pilot transfer arrangements, prepared by the Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR), at its first session, as set out in the annex.

2 Member Governments are invited to use the unified interpretation as guidance when applying the relevant provisions of SOLAS regulation V/23.3.3 for pilot transfer equipment and arrangements, and to bring this unified interpretation to the attention of all parties concerned.

***

IMO CONVENTIONS EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION

ANNEX

UNIFIED INTERPRETATION OF SOLAS REGULATION V/23.3.3

SOLAS regulation V/23.3.3 states:

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:*

.1.4 *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

Subparagraphs 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 limits the climb to not more than 9 m on a single ladder. If only a pilot ladder is to be used, the maximum height of 9 m from the "safe and convenient access to, and egress from, the ship" to the surface of the water is to include consideration of an adverse list of 15°.

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.

3 Member Governments are invited to use the unified interpretation provided in paragraphs 1 and 2 above as guidance when applying the relevant provisions of SOLAS regulation V/23.3.3 for pilot transfer equipment and arrangements and to bring them to the attention of all parties concerned.