

18.6.2018

Service terms on the embarkation and disembarkation of pilots

To ensure safe embarkation and disembarkation of its pilots, Finnpiilot Pilotage Ltd gives an amendment to the company Service terms and conditions. The purpose of this amendment is to provide the basic safety requirements for the pilots, pilot boats and the shipmasters to be followed. If the described safe practice in the boarding and landing of pilots by pilot boat is not followed, the pilotage service cannot be provided. However, these requirements on safe operating procedures can be adapted to suit particular locations or circumstances.

In adverse or difficult conditions where there is significant risk to personnel or the pilot boat, the pilot boat operator will make the eventual decision whether to place the pilot boat alongside the ship or to abort the transfer. If conditions during the pilot embarkation are such that they create any risk of injury the attempt shall be abandoned. If the pilot considers the embarkation unsafe for any reason, he or she will not embark the ship until the risk factors have ceased to exist.

If the pilot ladder rigged on the vessel appears to be or is, clearly damaged, unsafe or rigged incorrectly, the pilot shall request the ship to replace or re-rig the ladder; or if necessary, refuse to board or disembark the vessel until a safe means of embarkation/disembarkation is provided. The pilot shall report formally all cases of pilot ladder nonconformity according to the company procedure and the report is further submitted to the Finnish Transport Safety Agency (Port State Control authority in Finland).

Ships have a duty to rig their pilot ladders in accordance with The International Convention for Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) regulation / 23 and IMO resolution A 1045(27) as amended. A copy of the poster showing IMO requirements and IMPA recommendations - "Required Boarding Arrangements for PILOT" is included as an annex to this document. Pilot transfer operations are not undertaken on ships that do not fully comply with transfer arrangements described above.

The Pilot shall not embark if there is nobody at the top of the ladder.

The ladder should be rigged and secured at the ship's side or side door as near mid-ships as practical, and on the parallel body of the ship, clear of all overboard discharges. The ladder has to be located so that the pilot boat can lean against the parallel mid-body of the ship from the whole of its length. All steps of the ladder must rest firmly against the ship's side. If a list is unavoidable, the ladder should be rigged on the side opposite to the list, whilst always taking into account the need to make a sufficient lee.



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During winter months in conditions where icing occurs special caution must be taken to ensure that the pilot ladders are maintained free of ice and the deck area is not slippery.

Pilot operations are not undertaken with ships that do not comply with the requirements described in this document. This amendment to Finnpilot Pilotage Service terms and conditions cannot prescribe the safe pilot transfer arrangements for every configuration or type of vessel construction. Hence, the safety of the pilot transfer in ships other than merchant ships e.g. naval ships and large yachts may be evaluated case-by-case.

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