

General HSE Notification

Title: Pilot ladders and man ropes more than 30 months from date of delivery on board will no longer be accepted with effect from 01st January 2023 for vessels calling at Rio Tinto terminals where pilot boards vessel by means of using pilot ladder

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Distribution of notice to: RTIO Pilbara Operations HSE Notifications

Details:

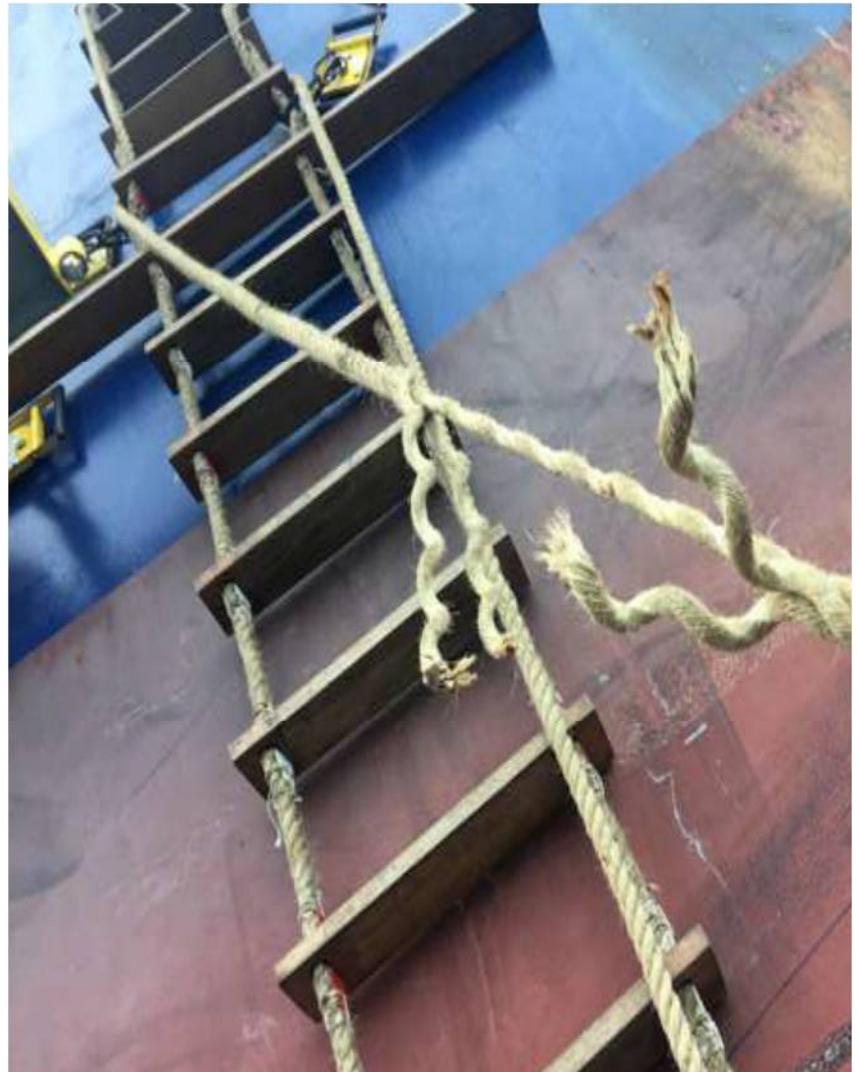
Reference is made to recent pilot ladder and associated equipment failures, resulting in serious injury and / or fatality to personnel using the pilot ladder for embarkation / disembarkation of vessels. The causative reasons as identified in these investigations and various industry guidelines post these incidents, have given an opportunity to review the existing processes and bring about clarity in the expectations regarding pilot ladder and associated fittings.

Regulatory references to the requirements for pilot ladder and associated fittings:

- SOLAS Chapter V / Regulation 23.
- IMO Resolution A.1045(27) – Pilot transfer arrangements, and IMO Resolution A.1108(29) – Amendments to the Recommendations on Pilot Transfer Arrangements (Resolution A.1045(27)).
- ISO 799 -1: 2019 – Ships and marine technology – Pilot ladders

Expectations:

1. Pilot ladder (rope ladder) certified as per ISO 799-1:2019 and copy of certificate available, clearly indicating the date delivered on board.
2. All associated fittings like man-ropes and securing cordage should be considered in line with pilot ladders for date delivered on board.
3. Storage, inspection, maintenance and deployment to follow requirement as provided under SOLAS V/23 and associated IMO regulations.
4. Ship specific procedure for rigging and unrigging pilot ladder and combination ladder to be prepared and familiarised by crew for compliance during deployment.



Example of unsafe man rope, courtesy AMSA

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Improvement proposal:

As a continuous commitment to enhance safety and care for people, vessels calling Rio Tinto terminals where pilot / personnel transfer will be done using pilot ladder, **pilot ladders and man ropes more than 30 months from date of delivery on board will no longer be accepted with effect from 01st January 2023**.

All are encouraged to follow compliance with above expectations as soon as possible.

References

[AMSA Marine Notice 03/2022](#)

[Marine Safety Awareness Bulletin issue 10](#)

[Australian Maritime Pilots Institute \(AMPI\) Safety Alert](#)

Next Steps

- Notice to be published to all agents
- Notice to be published to procurement team (fuel vessels)
- Notice to be published to chartering team (salt vessels)
- Notice to be published to Dampier salt terminals (PHD, Dampier and Cape Cuvier)
- Pre arrival information to reflect changes – pilot PAR for relevant sites
- Notice to be sent to AMSA, harbourmasters and other relevant stakeholders



Pilot ladder laid out on deck- courtesy MSWA pilots