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Safe Means of Access



During a vessel's port stay, many different people such as port staff, agents, inspectors, and other personnel require access to the vessel. It is important that gangway, brow, or ladder access points for vessels including Tug/Barge combinations provided are strong, stable, clean, and well-lit to avoid potential injuries.

Ignoring the above fact, vessels are using either temporary ladders or wooden planks as means of access without considering safety issues. Accidents that occur while accessing a vessel can result in serious injuries and even loss of life.

Therefore, all vessel masters are advised to provide a safe means of access that complies with international standards while operating in RAK Ports.

- Upper end of the means of access is flush with the deck or rests on the top of the bulwark with substantial steps properly secured and equipped with at least one substantial hand rail.
- Means of access shall be of adequate strength, provided with side boards, well maintained and lifebuoy with light / line available.
- Hand rails to be fixed on both sides of gangway and to be properly guarded with safety nets.
- Means of access shall be adequately illuminated for its full length during darkness.
- Gangway must be inspected and certified as per IMO regulations.
- Special attention to be taken during strong wind/rough sea to ensure gangway properly secured.