



NOTICE TO MARINERS

No. 23 – 19th November 2017

Subject: Pilot Transfer Arrangement

Masters, Ship-Owners, Operators and Shipping Agents of vessels operating within the RAK Ports compulsory pilotage services area are hereby notified of the need to provide a safe working environment for pilots at all times whilst embarking / disembarking from their vessels.

During recent inspections by Port State Control, it has been noticed that Pilot transfer arrangements have not been to the required standard, especially small vessels and Tug/Barge combinations where a vessel has a low freeboard similar to the pilot boat. In such situation, the transfer can be particularly hazardous since the boat will have insufficient hull of the ship to work against.

Steps with handrails must be provided where there is a need to descend from the pilot vessel, such as from a bulwark.

Therefore, with immediate effect Master of each vessel is to ensure that pilot transfer arrangements of their vessel are fit for purpose, regularly tested and correctly rigged in compliance with SOLAS Regulation V/23 and IMO Regulation A.1045(27).

In the event of non-compliance of above, Pilots have the right to refuse boarding a vessel and retain the right to report the defect to PSC authorities. Subsequently, vessel will be directed to a safe anchorage and berthing may be delayed until adequate safe arrangements for pilot transfer are made as per SOLAS regulation V/23 and IMO regulation A.1045(27).

Capt. Michael Magee

Harbour Master, RAK Ports

Status of previously published notices:

2015: 1

2016: 2

2017: 5, 10, 14, 15, 18, 19, 22