



Port of Milford Haven

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IMPORTANT

REF: Non-compliant Pilot Ladders

To whom it concerns,

Safety of people is one of our most important collective responsibilities. In this instance I am writing to highlight the safety of Pilots embarking / disembarking the vessels you represent. We have seen a very worrying increase in the number of non-compliant Pilot ladders entering the Haven (3 in the past week alone). This is in some part due to the increased scrutiny in this area across the UK maritime industry, but that in no way removes the responsibility to provide a safe working environment (we could be accused of 'making do' for too long). Often the Pilot is unaware that his safety has been compromised in some way until he has actually ascended the ladder and is on deck! There are 3 key areas of concern: 1. Poorly maintained / rigged ladders that are obviously non-compliant / unsafe; 2. Poor ship design where the Pilot ladder embarkation / securing point is an afterthought; 3. Incorrect securing on deck.

I would ask that you reach out to your ships and emphasise the importance of providing a compliant Pilot ladder when coming to Milford Haven – specifically encouraging Masters to take a personal interest in this crucial area. The guidance is clear (SOLAS Reg V/23) and advice can be sought from many sources (e.g. UKMPA), including ourselves. The reverse of the Schedule 2 has been amended for just this reason and the signature on this document is to ensure compliance – but is obviously not working. Please do your utmost to get this important message across, raising concerns or providing feedback to assist with this endeavour.

I look forward to your support.

Yours faithfully

Mike Ryan
Harbourmaster





Cc: Valero, VPOT, Dragon, Puma Energy & South Hook

