



NOTICE TO MARINERS

No. 03 – 2026

SAFE ACCESS FOR PILOTS

MASTERS, OWNERS, OPERATORS AND AGENTS OF ALL VESSELS USING SHOREHAM PORT ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED of their obligations to ensure their vessels comply with a safe means of access for pilots boarding or landing in accordance with the International convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS Chapter V, Regulation 23).

In particular, attention is drawn to the sections which specify, in detail, the requirements, construction and manner in which pilot ladders, accommodation ladders, hoists and associated equipment must be rigged.

The following situations should be given full consideration.

Pilot embarkation or disembarkation at sea

It should be ensured that all pilot ladders and accommodation ladders are fit for purpose, regularly tested and correctly rigged when in use. Additionally, ship's crew on deck, at the top of the pilot ladder, should check the immediate area for loose objects that, if they fell overboard, could cause injury to the Pilot on the ladder.

Pilot embarkation or disembarkation on the berth

At all times a vessel is alongside they must comply with all the Regulations and guidance published by the MCA, in particular the requirements in the Code of Safe Working Practices for Merchant Seamen. This remains so until the last person, which is often the pilot has boarded.

All Pilots and Harbour personnel have been instructed not to embark or disembark a vessel which fails to comply with these Regulations. Consequently, failure to comply will result in delays.

All Incidents will be reported via the UK Maritime Pilots' Association; Pilot Ladder Non-Compliance Report form to the Maritime Coastguard Agency.

Julian Seaman
Harbour Master

02 January 2026

Owners, Agents, Charterers, Marinas, Yacht Clubs and Recreational Sailing Organisations should ensure that the contents of this Notice are made known to the master's or persons in charge of their vessels or craft.