

PILOT LADDER REQUIREMENTS FOR SAN FRANCISCO BAR PILOTS IN ADDITION TO SOLAS REQUIREMENTS 17 CHAPTER 5

1. Please contact pilot boat via voice radio (Channel 10-16) approximately 30 minutes prior to arrival for desired lee.
2. The ladder must be kept clean and used solely for embarking and disembarking pilots.
3. Rigging of the ladder, along with embarking and disembarking pilot, must be under supervision of a licensed officer.
4. The ladder must be made in one length and not consist of two lengths shackled or lashed together, and should be equipped with spreaders about ten feet apart to comply with SOLAS Regulation 17, Chapter 5.
5. The pilot boats have their own lights to illuminate the pilot ladder, but a standby light should be ready for an emergency.
6. The area of the deck where the pilot boards and leaves must be well lighted and the area must be clear of all obstacles to insure a safe passage for the pilot.
7. NO TAG LINES, PULLUP ROPES, OR TRAILING LINES MAY BE ATTACHED TO THE LOWER ENDS OF THE LADDER.
8. Ladders must be rigged well clear of discharge and water outlets and at a place near mid-ship which affords the best lee for the pilot. At no time should the ladder be rigged near the stern of the vessel.
9. A means must be provided to allow the pilot to pass safely onto the ship's deck. Where portable stanchions and bulwark steps are used for this, the portable stanchions must be rigidly attached to the ship's structure and not the steps. The bulwark steps must also be securely fastened.
10. The ladder must be in good condition. The treads must remain horizontal when used and the upper surface must have a rough non-skid quality
11. Manropes approximately 3" manila in circumference, a heaving line and a ring buoy with a self-igniting light must be provided.
 - Disembarking - manrope mandatory.
 - Embarking - manrope may be required by pilot.
12. If your vessel is to take a load of logs, make sure the agent makes arrangements to have a catwalk to provide safe passage to and from the ladder.

ACCOMMODATION LADDERS FOR EMBARKING OR DISEMBARKING OF PILOTS

1. All vessels where the distance from sea level to the point of access of the ship exceeds nine meters (30 feet) at any time should carry on each side an accommodation ladder. The ladder is to be so sited that when in use the lower end of the ladder shall rest firmly against the ship's side under all conditions of roll and heel, clear of all discharges, and within the parallel length of the ship.
2. A conventional pilot ladder should be rigged just aft of the lower platform of the accommodation ladder. The pilot ladder should be secured firmly to the lower platform to allow access between the pilot ladder and accommodation ladder. The pilot ladder should extend at least two meters (6 feet) above the lower platform of the accommodation ladder. Manropes to be provided and rigged alongside the pilot ladder.