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**PART II**

**Statutory Notifications (S.R.O.)**

**GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN  
MINISTRY OF MARITIME AFFAIRS**

**NOTIFICATION**

*Islamabad, the 4th August, 2021*

**S. R. O. 993(I)/2021.**— In exercise of the powers conferred by section 331 of the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 2001 (LII of 2001), the Federal Government is pleased to make the following rules, namely:—

1. **Short title and commencement.**—(1) These rules shall be called the Merchant Shipping (Pilot Ladder) Rules, 2020.

(2) They shall come into force at once.

2. **Application.**—These rules shall apply to:—

(a) Pakistani Ships of over two hundred net tonnage;

(b) all Pakistani passenger ships engaged on international voyages in the course of which pilots are likely to be employed; and

(1635)

*Price : Rs. 6.00*

- (c) other ships which are required to have on board a pilot, harbour-master or assistant harbour-master under section 31 of the Ports Act, 1908 (XV of 1908) while they are in any port in Pakistan:

Provided that these rules shall not apply to a ship, other than a Pakistani ship, by reason of its being within a port in Pakistan if it would not have been in such port but for stress of weather or any other circumstances that neither the master nor the owner nor the charterer of the ship could have prevented or forestalled.

3. **Provision of pilot ladder.**— (1) Every ship to which these rules apply shall be provided with a pilot ladder which shall comply with the following requirements, namely:—

- (a) a single length of ladder shall be provided capable of reaching the water from the point of access to the ship when the ship is in an un-loaded condition and in normal conditions of trim with no list; and
- (b) the pilot ladder shall be secured in a position so that each step rests firmly against the ship's side:

Provided that the harbor-master may exempt ships with rubbing bands or ships which by virtue of their construction cannot fully comply with the provisions of this clause, subject to the condition that the provisions of this clause shall be complied with as nearly as circumstances may permit;

- (c) the pilot ladder shall be in a position clear of any possible discharges from the ship and so secured that the pilot can gain safe and convenient access to the ship after climbing not less than 1.5 metres and not more than nine meters. Whenever the distance from sea level to the point of access to the ship exceeds nine meters, access from the pilot ladder to the ship shall be by means of an accommodation ladder or other suitable safe or equally convenient means; and
- (d) the combination ladder may be used whenever the distance from sea level to the point of access to the ship exceeds nine meters:

Provide the accommodation ladder is firmly secured to the ship's side and the pilot ladder is also firmly attached to the ship's side 1.5 meters above the accommodation ladder platform.

- (e) the treads of the pilot ladder shall be of hard wood and not less than forty eight centimeters long, 11.4 centimeters wide and 2.5 centimeters in depth;
- (f) the steps shall be joined in such a manner that the ladder is of adequate strength;
- (g) the steps shall be maintained in a horizontal position and shall be evenly spaced and not less than 30.5 centimeters or more than thirty-eight centimeters apart;
- (h) spreaders of sufficient a length at such intervals so as to prevent the ladder from twisting; and

Provided that the provisions of this clause need not be complied with if the owner or master is satisfied that the ladder will not twist when in use without spreaders;

- (i) the side ropes of the pilot ladder shall consist of two manila ropes 5.71 centimeters on each side:

Provided that the harbor-master may accept the use of ropes of such other material as may be approved by them.

(2) There shall also be available on board—

- (a) two main ropes of adequate strength and properly secured and of not less than 6.25 centimeters in circumference each and a safety line, ready for use whenever required;
- (b) hand-holds to enable the pilot to pass safely and conveniently from the head of the ladder into the ship or on to the ships' deck; and
- (c) a light capable of shining alongside the ship so as to illuminate the ladder effectively at night and adequate lighting arrangements on the deck at the position where the pilot would board the ship.

(3) Use of winch reels for lowering pilot ladders—

- (a) when winch reels are used for lowering pilot ladder, the construction shall be at such a position so that it shall not obstruct the safe access to and from the ship;

- (b) if pilot ladder is stowed on a winch reel even then the pilot ladder shall be capable of securing to a strong point which is independent of the pilot ladder winch reel;
- (c) pilot ladder winch reels may be operated either manually or by electric, hydraulic or pneumatic means; and
- (d) pilot ladder winch reels must have means of prevention from being accidentally operated.

4. **Maintenance and use of pilot ladder and other appliances.**— (1) The pilot ladder and other appliances required to be carried on board under rule 3 shall be kept in good condition and reserved for the use of officials and other persons while a ship is arriving at, or leaving a port and for the embarkation and dis-embarkation of pilots.

(2) Pilot ladder and other appliances shall be used whenever a pilot, harbour-master or assistant harbour-master embarks or dis-embarks from a ship.

(3) It shall be the duty of the master or other person in charge of a ship to ensure that no ladder other than a pilot ladder is used by a pilot for embarkation or dis-embarkation.

(4) The rigging of the pilot ladder and other appliances and the embarkation and dis-embarkation of a pilot shall be supervised by the mate or other responsible officer on board the ship.

5. **Penalty.**— Whoever commits a breach of any of the provisions of these rules shall be punishable with fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees and, if the breach is continuing one, with further fine which may extend to one thousand rupees for every day after the first day during which the breach continues:

[No. 5(6)/2020-P&S.]

RIZWAN AHMED,  
*Secretary.*