

## OUR MISSION

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IMPA represents the international community of pilots. We use the resources of our membership to promote effective safety outcomes in pilotage as an essential public service.

## BELIEFS

The public interest is best served by a fully regulated and cohesive pilotage service free of commercial pressure.2 There is no substitute for the presence of a qualified pilot on the bridge.

3 IMO is the prime authority in matters concerning safety of international shipping.

4 All states should adopt a responsible approach based on proven safety strategies in establishing their own regulations, standards and procedures with respect to pilotage.

5 Existing and emerging information technologies are capable of enhancing on-board decision making by the maritime pilot.


## PILOT LADDER SAFETY SURVEY 2019

## IMPA Safety Survey 2019

The number of responses for this year's annual IMPA safety survey has comfortably exceeded previous years. We received 4225 reports, from 322 ports, in 35 countries, across 6 continents. This provides an unparalleled global reflection of the current state of pilot transfer arrangements.
"Safety of Seafarers" has long been one of the core principles of IMO. However, despite the vigorous work done, and the best of intentions displayed by its member states and NGOs to promote effective standards through SOLAS V/23 and A 1045, it is a sad reflection that still almost 1 in 8 vessels fail to provide a compliant pilot boarding arrangement.

It has often been stated by pilots themselves, "that a pilot's worst enemy is another pilot". A pilot who ignores a non-compliant arrangement is condoning its condition and putting the next pilot who uses it at risk. Attitudes are changing. IMO through SOLAS has determined the minimum safe standard. Increasingly pilots are taking the view if it is not compliant then it is not safe and will refuse to serve the vessel.

Steps are being taken to raise awareness of the issues. Many pilots now use social media sites such as Instagram and Facebook \#DangerousLadders to share experiences and advise their colleagues of unacceptable arrangements. Some pilot organisations in cooperation with their port state regulators have developed apps to enable prompt notification of defects. Consequently, more vessels will find themselves being subjected to inspections or even being denied
a pilot until they provide compliant arrangements. It has even been revealed by some ship's masters that they carry a special ladder for ports and countries who are known to demonstrate a zero-tolerance attitude.

Some vessels have 'exceptional' noncompliant constructions such as beltings, ballast arrangements and fenders etc. fitted for commercial purposes that have been approved by class societies and flag states. Increasingly these vessels are suffering commercial consequences as pilots are becoming more and more reluctant to put their safety at risk for the commercial benefit of others.

Boarding and disembarking of vessels at sea remains a perilous activity undertaken by maritime pilots around the world every minute of the day. The purpose of pilots is to enhance the safe and efficient movement of seagoing vessels during the most hazardous part of their voyage in congested and complicated waters so that they can pursue their commercial purpose. Does the world's shipping community not owe the persons undertaking this perilous task a simple duty of care by providing pilot boarding arrangements that meet the minimum standards set out in SOLAS V/23 and A1045?

It is a tragic fact that some maritime pilots who participated in previous surveys have lost their lives or suffered career ending injuries as a result of accidents whilst attending vessels whose safety and commercial success they were employed to serve.


## PARTICIPANTS

The chart below shows 4,225 returns from participating IMPA members which have been grouped into 6 geographical areas. The total non-compliance is shown as a percentage of total returns from each region and as a total.

| COUNTRY | TOTAL <br> RETURNS | COMPLIANT | NON <br> COMPLIANT | NON <br> COMPLIANT <br> AS $\%$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Africa | 43 | 31 | 12 | 27.91 |
| Asia / Oceania | 886 | 769 | 117 | 13.21 |
| Europe | 1743 | 1466 | 277 | 15.89 |
| Middle East | 4 | 2 | 2 | 50.00 |
| North America | 209 | 173 | 36 | 17.22 |
| South America | 1340 | 1241 | 99 | 7.39 |
| TOTAL | $\mathbf{4 2 2 5}$ | $\mathbf{3 6 8 2}$ | $\mathbf{5 4 3}$ | $\mathbf{1 2 . 8 5}$ |



COMPLIANCE BY REGION


Compliant
Non-Compliant

The following chart shows a break down of all returns by vessel type. Both the number and the percentage of non-compliant vessels by type are shown.

| VESSEL TYPE | TOTAL NUMBER OF VESSELS | COMPLIANT | NON COMPLIANT | NON COMPLIANT AS \% |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| General Cargo | 667 | 584 | 83 | 12.44 |
| Oil Tanker | 595 | 511 | 84 | 14.12 |
| Ro/Ro | 146 | 127 | 19 | 13.01 |
| Passenger | 178 | 168 | 10 | 5.62 |
| Container | 1106 | 991 | 115 | 10.40 |
| Gas Tanker | 194 | 172 | 22 | 11.34 |
| Reefer | 21 | 18 | 3 | 14.29 |
| Fishing | 19 | 12 | 7 | 36.84 |
| Bulkcarrier | 707 | 594 | 113 | 15.98 |
| Chemical Tanker | 276 | 246 | 30 | 10.87 |
| Car Carrier | 95 | 85 | 10 | 10.53 |
| Rig Supply Vessel | 71 | 59 | 12 | 16.90 |
| Other (E.G. Navy) | 206 | 169 | 37 | 17.96 |

COMPLIANCE BY VESSEL TYPE


## COMPLIANCE BY

 MEANS OF TRANSFERThe following chart shows a breakdown of all returns by means of transfer. Both the number and the percentage of non-compliant means of transfer by type are shown.

| $\quad$MEANS OF <br> TRANSFER | TOTAL <br> NUMBER | COMPLIANT | NON <br> COMPLIANT | NON <br> COMPLIANT <br> AS $\%$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Pilot Ladder | 2764 | 2410 | 354 | 12.81 |
| Combination | 885 | 753 | 132 | 14.92 |
| Side Door and | 361 | 318 | 43 | 11.91 |
| Pilot Ladder |  |  |  | 0 |
| Gangway | 43 | 43 | 1 | 0.00 |
| Helicopter | 113 | 112 | 0.88 |  |
| Deck to Deck | 124 | 109 | 15 | 12.10 |
| TOTAL | $\mathbf{4 2 9 0}$ | $\mathbf{3 7 4 5}$ | $\mathbf{5 4 5}$ |  |



COMPLIANCE BY MEANS OF TRANSFER



## NON-COMPLIANCE <br> BY TYPE OF DEFECT

The first pie chart shows the percentage of the defects that were reported to the Authority. The second pie chart shows non-compliance by type of defect. Both the number and percentage are shown.

## DEFECTS REPORTED TO AUTHORITY

| TOTAL NUMBER OF NON-COMPLIANT SHIPS IN SURVEY REPORTED | 543 |  |
| :--- | :--- | :---: |
| Number of defects reported to Authority |  | 45 |
| \% of non-compliant ships reported |  | 8.29 |
| \% of ships reported | 8.29 |  |
| \% of ships not reported |  | 91.71 |
|  |  |  |
| \% of ships reported |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| \% of ships not reported |  |  |



NON-COMPLIANCE BY TYPE OF DEFECT

| NON-COMPLIANT BY TYPE OF DEFECT | TOTAL | AS \% |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Pilot ladder | 346 | 51.26 |
| Bulwark/Deck | 160 | 23.7 |
| Combination | 77 | 11.41 |
| Safety Equipment | 92 | 13.63 |
| TOTAL | $\mathbf{6 7 5}$ |  |
| Bilot Ladder |  |  |
| $\square$ |  |  |
| Bulwark/Deck |  |  |
| $\square$ |  |  |



## NON-COMPLIANCE BY TYPE OF DEFECT

The first pie chart shows the types of defects of the pilot ladder. Both the number and percentage are shown. The second pie chart shows the types of defects of the bulwark / deck arrangements. Both the number and percentage are shown.

| DEFECTS OF PILOT LADDER | TOTAL | AS \% |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Not against ship's hull | 51 | 11.02 |
| Steps not of suitable material | 5 | 1.08 |
| Poorly rigged retrieval line | 67 | 14.47 |
| Steps broken | 11 | 2.38 |
| Steps not equally spaced | 22 | 4.75 |
| Pilot Ladder more than 9 metres | 8 | 1.73 |
| Steps dirty/slippery | 16 | 3.46 |
| Sideropes not of suitable material | 12 | 2.59 |
| Pilot Ladder too far forward/Aft | 14 | 3.02 |
| Steps painted | 6 | 1.3 |
| Incorrect step fittings | 17 | 3.67 |
| No bulwark ladder | 5 | 1.08 |
| Steps not horizontal | 79 | 17.06 |
| Other | 150 | 32.4 |
| TOTAL | 463 |  |

DEFECTS OF PILOT LADDER


DEFECTS OF BULWARK / DECK


## NON-COMPLIANCE BY TYPE OF DEFECT

The first pie chart shows the combination defects. Both the number and percentage are shown. The second pie chart shows the safety equipment defects. Both the number and percentage are shown.


| SAFETY EQUIPMENT DEFECTS | TOTAL | AS \% |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Inadequate lighting at night | 17 | 11.41 |
| No lifebuoy with self-igniting light | 46 | 30.87 |
| No VHF communication with the bridge | 21 | 14.09 |
| No heaving line | 33 | 22.15 |
| No responsible officer in attendance | 27 | 18.12 |
| Other | 5 | 3.36 |
| TOTAL | $\mathbf{1 4 9}$ |  |

Inadequate lighting at night $\square$
No lifebuoy with self-igniting light $\square$
No VHF communication with the bridge $\square$
No heaving line $\square$
No responsible officer in attendance $\square$
Other

## SAFETY EQUIPMENT DEFECTS





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