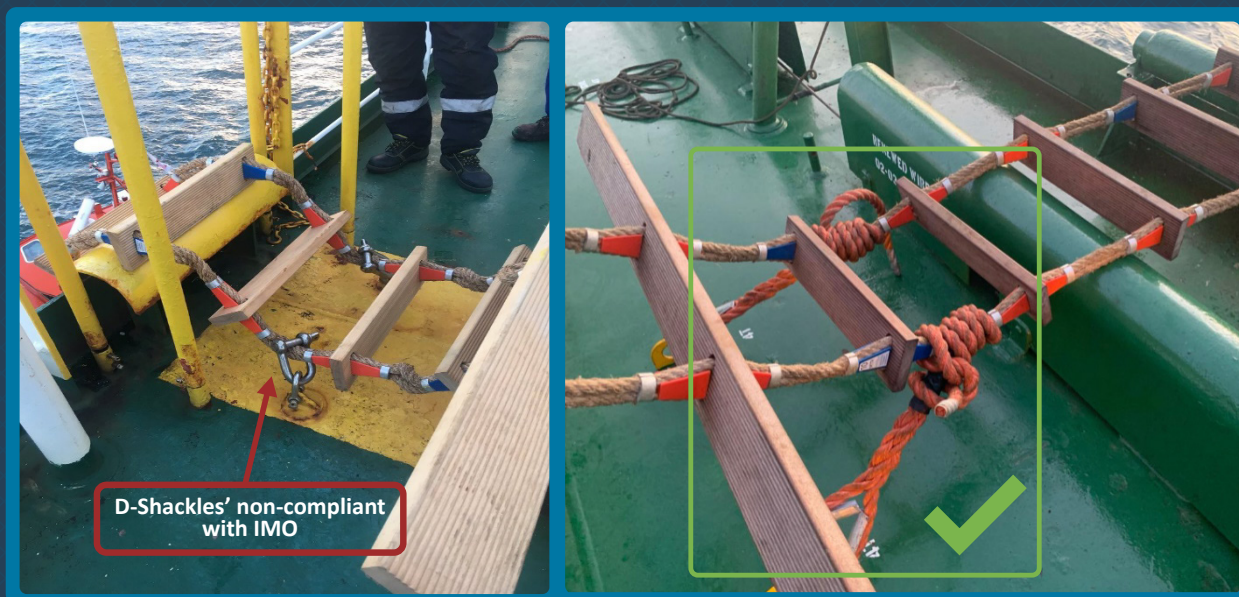


TIP OF THE MONTH – SECURING PILOT LADDER



Picture 1 Source: Marine-Pilots.com – Picture 2 Source: Pilotladdersafety.com/Cpt. Gary Clay

- **HELMET ELEMENT 4 'Safety' – Item 10 'Means of embarkation, disembarkation, and pilot transfer'**
- **IMO Resolution 1045(27) "Pilot Transfer Arrangements"**
- **Code of Safe Working Practices – Ch.14 'Permit to work systems' & Ch.22 "Boarding Arrangements"**
- **VIQ – Section 5.47 - (Access)**
- **SIRE 2.0 Questionnaire – 5.5.4 & 5.10 "Safe Access"**

INCIDENT

During an onboard H.EL.M.E.T. assessment, the P@S Assessor requested from crew to rig the Pilot Ladder, for inspecting its condition and readiness of safe operation. As the crew deployed the ladder to the ship's side, the Assessor noticed that D-Shackles were applied for securing the ladder's steps.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Chocks, Brackets, Bars or D-Shackles shall not be used to secure the Pilot ladder, since such parts are not intended to withstand the Pilot's weight and the dynamic forces generated during the embarkation process.

As per **SOLAS Regulation V/23 Chapter 3.3.4 'Transfer Arrangements'**, it is clearly stated that "The securing strong point, shackles and securing ropes shall be at least as strong as the side ropes."

SUGGESTIONS

- Do not deploy the ladder, if you are in doubt of the side ropes and steps condition.
- Inspect the ladder's condition before and after its use, in addition to the regular SMS inspections.
- Keep equipment's certificates readily available for a third-party inspection.
- Use markings on deck and other equipment in order to easily identify the equipment's maximum working load and the last inspection date.
- Lower the Pilot Ladder at the requested height above the sea surface, in order to avoid damage when the Pilot boat is alongside.
- Assign a responsible Officer to supervise the safe & smooth pilot ladder rigging procedure.
- Circulate a fleet safety message to promote awareness amongst ship's crew for proper operation and handling of such equipment.

BEST PRACTICE

Pilots recognize the "rolling hitch" method, as an acceptable practice. Use dedicated securing ropes and store them in a dry location together with the Pilot ladder, protected from weather conditions.