

RESOLUTION A.426(XI)

*Adopted on 15 November 1979
Agenda item 10(b)*

**ARRANGEMENTS FOR EMBARKING AND DISEMBARKING PILOTS
IN VERY LARGE SHIPS**

THE ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING Article 16(i) of the Convention on the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization concerning the functions of the Assembly,

RECALLING ALSO Regulation 17, Chapter V of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974,

RECALLING FURTHER resolution A.275(VIII) which recommends performance standards for mechanical pilot hoists and resolution A.332(IX) concerning arrangements for embarking and disembarking pilots in very large ships,

HAVING CONSIDERED the recommendation made by the Maritime Safety Committee at its thirty-eighth session,

1. ADOPTS the Recommendation on Arrangements for Embarking and Disembarking Pilots in Very Large Ships, the text of which is annexed to the present resolution;
2. REVOKES resolution A.332(IX).

ANNEX

**RECOMMENDATION ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR EMBARKING AND DISEMBARKING PILOTS
IN VERY LARGE SHIPS**

1. In all ships where the distance from sea level to the point of access to, or egress from, the ship exceeds 9 metres, and when it is intended to embark and disembark pilots by means of the accommodation ladder in conjunction with a pilot ladder, the ship should carry an accommodation ladder on each side, unless the accommodation ladder is capable of being transferred.
2. The ladder should be sited leading aft. When in use, the lower end of the ladder should rest firmly against the ship's side within the parallel body length of the ship and within the mid-ship half section and clear of all discharges. Equally safe arrangements which might be more suitable for special types of ships should be acceptable.
3. The length of the accommodation ladder should be sufficient to ensure that its angle of slope does not exceed 55 degrees.
4. The lower platform of the accommodation ladder should be in a horizontal position when in use.

5. Intermediate platforms, if fitted, should be self-levelling. Treads and steps of the accommodation ladder should be so designed that an adequate and safe foothold is given at the operative angles.
6. The ladder and platforms should be equipped on both sides with stanchions and rigid handrails, but if handropes are used they should be tight and properly secured. The vertical space between the handrail or handrope and the stringers of the ladder should be securely fenced.
7. The pilot ladder should be rigged immediately adjacent to the lower platform of the accommodation ladder and the upper end should extend at least 2 metres above the lower platform.
8. Lighting should be provided at night such that the full length of the ladder is adequately lit.
9. If a trapdoor is fitted in the lower platform to allow access from and to the pilot ladder, the aperture should be not less than 750 x 750 mm. In this case the after part of the lower platform should also be fenced as in paragraph 6, and the pilot ladder should extend above the lower platform to the height of the handrail.
10. Accommodation ladders, together with any suspension arrangements or attachments, fitted and intended for use in accordance with this recommendation should be to the satisfaction of the Administration.