STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1971 No. 724

MERCHANT SHIPPING

SAFETY

The Merchant Shipping (Pilot Ladders) (Amendment) Rules 1971

Made - - -	30*th April* 1971
Laid before Parliament	10*th May* 1971
Coming into Operation	1*st July* 1971

The Secretary of State, in exercise of his powers under section 427 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1894(**a**) as substituted by section 2 of the Merchant Shipping (Safety Convention) Act 1949(**b**) and amended by section 9 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1964(**c**) and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf, hereby makes the following Rules:—

1.—(1) These Rules may be cited as the Merchant Shipping (Pilot Ladders) (Amendment) Rules 1971 and shall come into operation on 1st July 1971.

(2) The Interpretation Act 1889(**d**) shall apply to the interpretation of these Rules as it applies to the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

2. The Merchant Shipping (Pilot Ladders) Rules 1965(**e**) shall be amended as follows:—

In Rule 4—

(1) The following shall be substituted for paragraph (2):—

"(2) Every such pilot ladder shall be so positioned and secured—

(*a*) that it is clear of any possible discharges from the ship;

(*b*) that so far as reasonably practicable it is clear of the finer lines of the ship;

(*c*) that each step rests firmly against the ship's side; and

(*d*) that the pilot can gain safe and convenient access to the ship after climbing not less than 5 feet and not more than 30 feet."

(2) The full-stop at the end of paragraph (8) shall be replaced by a comma and the following shall be added:—

"so however that the lowest batten shall not be lower than the fifth step from the bottom of the ladder and that the interval between any batten and the next shall not exceed 9 steps."

(**a**) 1894 c. 60.
(**b**) 1949 c. 43.
(**c**) 1964 c. 47.
(**d**) 1889 c. 63.
(**e**) S.I. 1965/1046 (1965 I, p. 2536).

(3) The following shall be substituted for paragraph (9):—

"(9)(*a*) Means shall be provided to ensure safe and convenient passage for the pilot on to, or into, and off the ship between the head of the pilot ladder, or of any accommodation ladder or other appliance provided pursuant to paragraph (4) of this Rule, and the ship's deck.

(*b*) Where such passage is by means of a gateway in the rails or bulwark, adequate hand-holds shall be provided.

(*c*) Where such passage is by means of a bulwark ladder, two hand-hold stanchions shall be fitted at the point of boarding or leaving the ship and shall be rigidly secured to the ship's structure."

(4) The following shall be added as paragraph (11):—

"(11) Means shall be provided to enable the pilot ladder to be used in accordance with the requirements of this Rule on either side of the ship."

Anthony Grant,
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State,
Department of Trade and Industry.

30th April 1971.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Rules.)

These Rules amend provisions of the Merchant Shipping (Pilot Ladders) Rules 1965 which specify safety requirements for pilot ladders and for appliances designed to ensure safety in their use. The principal change made is the imposition of new requirements as to the means to be provided to enable pilots to pass safely between the head of the pilot ladder and the ship. Other amendments relate to the construction of pilot ladders and the position in which they are to be secured when in use.