



Merchant Shipping Directorate



Transport Malta

## COUNTERFEIT PILOT LADDERS

### Information Notice 57

*Notice to Ship-owners, Ship Operators, Managers, Masters,  
Owners' Representatives and Recognized Organizations*

The Directorate wishes to draw the attention of all concerned to the U.S. Coast Guard [Marine Safety Alert 11-24](#), highlighting the discovery of counterfeit pilot ladders.

During a Port State Control Inspection, the U.S Authorities noted that fraudulent identification plates were incorrectly referenced, including referencing the standard "ISO 779-1" instead of the correct "ISO 799-1", and lacking the proper ISO 799-1 designation type. Although the serial numbers on these ladders matched the accompanying certificates, discrepancies were found in the number of steps and overall length, which were not corresponding to the specifications in the certification documents.

These counterfeit pilot ladders are falsely claimed to be manufactured by "QINGDAO GOOD BROTHER MARINE LIFE SAVING APPLIANCE Co. LTD.," which is a legitimate producer of SOLAS-approved pilot ladders. It is important to note that similar counterfeit ladders using this company's name and SOLAS certification were also detected by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority in March 2019, which was highlighted through an ['advisory note'](#) and later revised in January 2024.

Ship owners, operators, and other stakeholders are strongly advised to:

- Conduct thorough inspections of pilot ladders, confirming that the equipment is genuine and meets SOLAS requirements.
- Verify certification details, ensuring that the correct ISO approval numbers are present and that the ladder's specifications match those listed on the certificate.

All concerned are urged to remain vigilant and take necessary precautions to prevent the use of counterfeit pilot ladders, which pose a significant safety risk to personnel and operations.

Furthermore, it is recalled that the Pilot ladder is also subject to Directive 2014/90/EU on marine equipment (hereinafter referred to as "the MED"), under item MED/4.49 of the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/1975. The Directorate reminds all concerned of the implementation of the MED and to Merchant Shipping Notices [145](#) and [153](#) on compliance with the MED. Inter alia, the MED requires that when marine equipment is placed on board a ship flagged in an EU Member State, the Manufacturer's EU Declaration of Conformity (DOC) covering the equipment shall be maintained on board the ship, and the relevant mark of conformity "the wheel mark" must be physically stamped on the equipment.

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Authorized Recognised Organisations (ROs) shall inform this Directorate in cases where it has been proven or suspected that counterfeit pilot ladders onboard a Maltese ship are not compliant with the applicable EU and international legislation or whenever any suspected fraudulent conformity documents/wheel marks are found onboard.

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