



Gibraltar Maritime Administration

HM Government of Gibraltar

Watergate House
2/8 Casemates Square
Gibraltar

Tel (+350)200 46862 / 200 47771 /200 50424

Fax (+350) 200 47770

e-mail: maritime.survey@gibraltar.gov.gi
maritime.registry@gibraltar.gov.gi

Shipping Information Notice – 117 **UK Safety bulletin 36 & US Coast Guard – Marine Safety Alert 11-24;** **counterfeit pilot ladders**

To: Masters, Owners, & Operators

References:

- Safety bulletin 36 – Counterfeit pilot ladders: importance of verifying genuine SOLAS approved equipment
- US Coast Guard – Marine Safety Alert 11-24

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The purpose of this Shipping Information Notice (SIN) is to bring to the attention of all Masters, owners, operators of Gibraltar registered ships, UK Safety bulletin 36, and, US Coast Guard – Marine Safety Alert 11-24, in respect of counterfeit pilot ladders.
- 1.2. Both documents are appended to this SIN for review and appropriate distribution.

Steve Gomez – Chief Surveyor

For and on behalf of the Maritime Administrator

Issue date: 28 January 2025

All notices are available through www.gibraltarship.com

This copy of the Administrative Instruction is issued electronically and does not carry a signature or official stamp. A signed and stamped copy is available upon request



Maritime &
Coastguard
Agency

Guidance

Safety bulletin 36 – Counterfeit pilot ladders: importance of verifying genuine SOLAS approved equipment

Published 10 January 2025

Contents

Safety bulletin 36 – Counterfeit pilot ladders: importance of verifying genuine SOLAS approved equipment



© Crown copyright 2025

This publication is licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0 except where otherwise stated. To view this licence, visit nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3 or write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gov.uk.

Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

This publication is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safety-bulletin-36-counterfeit-pilot-ladders-importance-of-verifying-genuine-solas-approved-equipment/9c90a0a8-7ea9-4625-9a9d-d45409695dfe>

Safety bulletin 36 – Counterfeit pilot ladders: importance of verifying genuine SOLAS approved equipment

07 January 2025

Summary of Issue regarding Counterfeit Pilot Ladders:

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), as the UK Market Surveillance Authority for marine equipment, has been made aware of counterfeit ladders that the US Coast Guard discovered during a Port State Control Examination at the Port of Baltimore and issued [US Coast Guard Safety Alert 11-24, Counterfeit Pilot Ladders](https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/DCO%20Documents/5p/CG-5PC/INV/Alerts/USCGSA_1124.pdf) (https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/DCO%20Documents/5p/CG-5PC/INV/Alerts/USCGSA_1124.pdf)

Key Findings:

- The counterfeit ladder referenced ISO 779-1 instead of ISO 799-1.
- The serial number on the ladder matched its certificate, however, the number of steps and the length of the ladder did not align with the specifications listed on the certificate.
- The plate and certificate indicated that the ladder was produced by “QINGDAO GOOD BROTHER MARINE LIFE SAVING APPLIANCE Co. LTD”, a company that manufactures SOLAS-approved pilot ladders. It is however worth noting that the Australian Maritime Safety Authority in March 2019 identified counterfeit pilot ladders falsely bearing the company’s name and SOLAS certification.

The issue highlights the critical need for shipowners and operators to thoroughly verify the authenticity of marine equipment, particularly when dealing with items that are critical to safety at sea.

What should you do:

- Thoroughly inspect pilot ladders to ensure vessels are outfitted with genuine SOLAS-approved equipment.

- Verify certification details. Check for proper ISO approval numbers and ensure the specifications on the certificate match the actual ladder.

For further reference on the issue, and to view more details about the counterfeit pilot ladders discovered, please consult the United States Coast Guard Safety Alert on Counterfeit Pilot Ladders.

Further information

For any further information please contact the MCA using the email MEQA@mcga.gov.uk

Related Documents

[MSN 1874 amendment 9 \(https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/msn-1874-mf-amendment-9-marine-equipment-united-kingdom-conformity-assessment-procedures-for-marine-equipment-other-approval-and-standards\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/msn-1874-mf-amendment-9-marine-equipment-united-kingdom-conformity-assessment-procedures-for-marine-equipment-other-approval-and-standards) - United Kingdom conformity assessment procedures for marine equipment, Other Approval and Standards.



UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

MARINE SAFETY ALERT

Inspections and Compliance Directorate

December 26, 2024
Washington DC

Safety Alert 11-24

COUNTERFEIT PILOT LADDERS: IMPORTANCE OF VERIFYING GENUINE SOLAS-APPROVED EQUIPMENT

Marine Inspectors from Sector Maryland-National Capital Region (NCR) discovered counterfeit pilot ladders during a Port State Control Examination at the Port of Baltimore. The identification plate on the ladder (Figure 1) contained several errors, including referencing ISO 779-1 instead of the correct standard, ISO 799-1, and lacking the ISO 799-1 designation type. Additionally, while the serial number on the ladder matched the accompanying certificate, the number of steps and the length of the ladder did not align with the specifications listed on the certificate.

The plate and certificate indicated that the ladder was produced by “QINGDAO GOOD BROTHER MARINE LIFE SAVING APPLIANCE Co. LTD.,” a company that manufactures SOLAS-approved pilot ladders. However, in March 2019, the Australian Maritime Safety Authority identified counterfeit pilot ladders falsely bearing this company's name and SOLAS certification. An authentic example of a pilot ladder plate from QINGDAO GOOD BROTHER MARINE LIFE SAVING APPLIANCE Co. LTD is shown in Figures 2 and 3.



Figure 1: Fraudulent Certification Placard



Figure 2: Valid Certification Placard.

The Coast Guard **strongly recommends** that ship owners and operators:

- Thoroughly inspect pilot ladders to ensure vessels are outfitted with genuine SOLAS-approved equipment.
- Verify certification details. Check for proper ISO approval numbers and ensure the specifications on the certificate match the actual ladder.

This Safety Alert is provided for informational purposes only and does not relieve any domestic or international safety, operational, or material requirement. Developed by Sector Maryland-National Capital Region and distributed by the Office of Investigations and Casualty Analysis. Questions may be sent to HQS-SMB-CG-INV@uscg.mil.

 **好兄弟®** **引航员软梯**  
GOOD BROTHER **Pilot Ladder**

产品编号 **P20199** 产品型号 **IS279-1-S57-L37**
Serial No. Type
制造日期 **2023.08** 证书编号 **MEDB00004WJ**
Manufacture Date Certificate No.

序号 No.	试验日期 Date of test	试验结果 Test results	检验员 Inspector
1	2023/08/26	合格/PASSED	CHEN HUI
2			

注意 Note:

- 每隔大约30个月，每具软梯应按要求进行“软梯及踏板附件强度试验”。未通过试验的软梯应重新组装或报废。
Each ladder shall be subjected to the ladder and step attachment strength test at approximately 30-month intervals. Each ladder which falls the test shall be rebuilt or scrapped.
- 数字标记物的间距是1M。
The distance between the digital markers is 1 meter.

青岛好兄弟船用救生用品有限公司
QINGDAO GOOD BROTHER MARINE LIFE-SAVING APPLIANCE CO., LTD
Tel: 0532-83108886 [http: www. qdgb. com](http://www.qdgb.com)

Figure 3 - Valid certification placard, edited and enhanced for clarity.