

RESOLUTION MSC.62(67)  
(adopted on 5 December 1996)  
GUIDELINES FOR SAFE ACCESS TO TANKER BOWS

**ANNEX 7**

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**GUIDELINES FOR SAFE ACCESS TO TANKER BOWS**

THE MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE,

RECALLING Article 28(b) of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization concerning the functions of the Committee,

NOTING that new regulation II-1/3-3 of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974, as adopted by the Committee by resolution MSC.57(67), requires that all tankers, including gas carriers and chemical tankers, shall be provided with means, based on guidelines developed by the Organization, to enable the crew to gain safe access to the bow even in severe weather conditions,

HAVING CONSIDERED the recommendation made by the Sub-Committee on Ship Design and Equipment at its thirty-ninth session,

1. ADOPTS the Guidelines for Safe Access to Tanker Bows, set out in the Annex to the present resolution;
2. RECOMMENDS that all Governments concerned take appropriate steps to implement the said Guidelines.

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#### Gangway and Access

1 Tankers, including oil tankers as defined in SOLAS regulation II-1/2.12, chemical tankers as defined in regulation VII/8.2 and gas carriers as defined in regulation VII/11.2, should be provided with means to enable the crew to gain safe access to the bow even in severe weather conditions. For tankers constructed on or after 1 July 1998, the access should be by means of either a walkway on the deck or a permanently constructed gangway of substantial strength at or above the level of the superstructure deck or the first tier of a deckhouse which should:

- .1 be not less than 1 m in width, situated on or as near as practicable to the centre line of the ship and located so as not to hinder easy access across working areas of the deck;
- .2 be fitted at each side throughout its length with a footstop and guard rails supported by stanchions. Such rails should consist of no less than 3 courses, the lowest being not more than 230 mm and the uppermost being at least 1 m above the gangway or walkway, and no intermediate opening should be more than 380 mm in height. Stanchions should be at intervals of not more than 1.5 m;
- .3 be constructed of fire resistant and non-slip material;
- .4 have openings, with ladders where appropriate, to and from the deck. Openings should not be more than 40 m apart;
- .5 if the length of exposed deck to be traversed exceeds 70 m, have shelters of substantial construction set in way of the gangways or walkways at intervals not exceeding 45 m. Every such shelter should be capable of accommodating at least one person and be so constructed as to afford weather protection on the forward, port and starboard sides; and
- .6 if obstructed by pipes or other fittings of a permanent nature, be provided with means of passage over such obstruction.

2 The Administration may accept alternative or modified arrangements for tankers with space constraint, such as small tankers, or tankers with large freeboard, such as gas carriers, provided that such alternative or modified arrangements achieve an equivalent level of safety for access to the bow.

3 Arrangements already approved by the Administration for the tankers constructed before 1 July 1998 may be accepted, provided that such existing arrangements achieve an equivalent level of safety for access to the bow.

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