

Supplementary Paper for the PLVAC meeting on March 2006

Subject: - Amendments to Draft Code of Practice for Safe Means of Access to Vessels

This paper is to follow up the outstanding items in the 39th PLVAC meeting. After the 39th PLVAC meeting, the Hong Kong Cargo-Vessel Traders' Association and Marine Department held a meeting on 13/Jan/2006 to discuss the outstanding items and to agree on revised amendments. The following amendments were suggested as follows:

Draft Code of Practice for Safe Means of Access to Vessels

4.3.2(ii) Where two vessels have even freeboard, either vessel should provide a safe means of access, unless the conditions are such that it is possible to pass from one to the other without undue risk. **Where two dumb steel lighters fitted with large-sized rubber tyres (of the diameter not less than 1.8 m and the width not less than 0.36 m) at either sides have even freeboard, the rubber tyres could be considered as safe means of access provided that regular checks are made by the person in charge of works to ensure that the tyres surfaces remain dry and non-slippery and safe to pass to and from either lighter without undue risk, and the notice "Safe Access Here" should be displayed in appropriate position. Other proper safe means of access should be arranged by the person in charge of works whenever situation does not warrant the use of those rubber tyres surfaces as safe access by workers between the lighters.**

4.5 Fixed Ladder

4.5.5 When a fixed and permanent ladder or similar construction is used for embarking and disembarking vessels: –

- (ii) The steps must be horizontal and equally spaced at interval between 250 mm and ~~350 mm~~ 360mm for users to climb up or down safely. The width of a ladder should be at least 400 mm.

- 4.6 Portable or Rope Ladders
- 4.6.6 When a portable ladder is used for embarking and disembarking vessel:--
- (iii) The steps must be horizontal and equally spaced at interval between 250 mm and ~~350 mm~~ 360mm for users to climb up or down safely. The width of a ladder should be at least 400 mm.
- 4.6.7 Where a rope ladder is provided, it must be of adequate length and so constructed that it can be efficiently secured to the vessel and it must meet the following standards –
- (iii) The rung must be horizontal and equally spaced at interval between 250 mm and ~~350 mm~~ 300 mm for users to climb up or down safety. The width of a ladder should be at least 400 mm.

13/2/2006