



**COLUMBIA  
RIVER  
PILOTS**

## **Pilot Transfer Guidelines**

### **STATIONARY**

Ensure that there is a safe means of access between the vessel and terminal with access to a secure ladder in all cases, free of tripping hazards.

Establish that an officer, with direct communication to the bridge, is present at the ladder or point of access to the ship's deck during pilot transfer.

Establish that the ladder or point of access to the ship's deck is secure.

Ensure that the area is suitably lit before undertaking a nighttime embarkation or disembarkation.

Have "man-overboard" recovery equipment available and ready for use on the vessel. The recovery system must include the ability to retrieve a pilot without the pilot's assistance.

### **UNDERWAY**

The pilot boat must have adequate deck spacing with the house, free of tripping hazards, and have handrails available on the house.

The pilot boat must be able to perform transfers at the safe speed of the piloted vessel. Speeds of 8 knots through the water, or greater, can be expected.

Establish that an officer, with direct communication to the bridge, is present at the ladder or point of access to the ship's deck during pilot transfer.

Establish that the ladder or point of access to the ship's deck is secure.

Ensure that the area is suitably lit before undertaking a nighttime embarkation or disembarkation.

Ensure that pilot boat personnel are using safety harnesses while on deck during pilot transfers.

Have "man-overboard" recovery equipment available and ready for use on the pilot boat. The recovery system must include the ability to retrieve a pilot without the pilot's assistance.

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