



## Notice to Mariners No. 12 of 2024

### Waterford Estuary Chart No. 2046

To all ship owners, shipmasters, agents, stevedores, fishing vessels, pleasure craft users, seafarers and fishery organisations.

#### Safe means of access

Masters of all vessels calling to Port of Waterford are hereby reminded of the requirement to provide a safe means of access between the vessel and quay.

Furthermore, it is a requirement of any person boarding or leaving the vessel to use the access equipment provided. Special attention should be paid by all Pilots, Agents, Stevedores, Surveyors, service providers and visitors to the requirement of using only a safe means of access.

The Master of a vessel shall ensure that:

- a) Access equipment including safety nets is placed in position promptly after the ship has arrived and remains in position while the ship is alongside.
- b) Access equipment including safety nets are properly rigged, secured and safe to use.
- c) Access equipment is adjusted to maintain safe access at all stages of the tide.
- d) Access equipment is maintained in a serviceable condition.
- e) The area of access is adequately illuminated.
- f) A lifebuoy with self-activating light and a separate safety line attached to a quoit or similar device is provided.

The attention of Masters is also drawn to the following:

- The use of pilot ladders as a means of access is strictly prohibited.
- Vessels berthing at the Belview Container Terminal must be fitted with either an accommodation ladder or a gangway turntable so as to maintain the safe means of access.
- Vessels not providing a safe means of access may be reported to Port State Control.

Shore workers should always check a gangway before using it, and refuse to use it if any deficiencies are identified.

Further information is available in:

- [SI 108/1988 Merchant Shipping \(Means of Access\) Regulations 1988](#)
- Department of Transport Marine Notice 38 of 2000

Captain Darren Doyle  
Harbour Master