# MACN – PILOT REVISION (2024) Stand Your Ground, Be a Leader – Captains Edition — study guide



Corruption at the gangway is a real risk to a ship's Master and crew, and to the company. This guide covers the definitions, the preparation, and how to handle demands without putting people in danger.[1]

## Key definitions

- **Bribery**: the acceptance, offering, solicitation or promise of benefits, in type or monetary, in order to gain business advantages to which you are not otherwise entitled.
- **Corruption**: the abuse of entrusted power for private gain.
- **Facilitation payment**: a payment meant to speed up a routine action, such as a ship being cleared or allowed to leave sooner (a classic "tea money" demand).

## Preparation is the first defence

Your first line of defence against bribery or corruption is to be prepared and know what to look out for — for instance by calling the Port Agent prior to the port call. Useful preparation includes putting up anti-corruption posters on the gangway, having a preparatory call with the Port Agent to inform them of the company's policies, researching known challenges at that port, and double-checking all documentation in advance.

## Handling a demand

When your integrity is being tested, communicate **politely but firmly**, and keep politely referring to your company's policies. Standing your ground and citing policy is exactly what a successful rejection looks like. A company **can** be held liable for bribery committed by its agent. If the Master gives alcohol to customs authorities to gain a business advantage, or hands over goods the officials demand in return, that is bribery. Where the Captain pays an official to jump a queue, it is the **public official** who commits bribery.

## Duress

Duress involves threats to the physical security of you and/or the crew. In cases of duress, **safety comes first** — the crew are allowed to make the payment — but the case **must be reported** to the company as soon as possible. A demand that is successfully resisted should also be reported, so best practice can be shared.

## Corruption is manageable

It is possible to do something about corruption: the extent and impact can be reduced, even if it will continue to exist.

© 2026 maritimetest.com · free study guide

## Key facts to remember

- Bribe = benefit offered/accepted to gain an advantage you are not entitled to. Corruption = abuse of entrusted power for private gain.
- Preparation: call the Port Agent, post anti-corruption notices, research the port, check documents.
- Communicate politely but firmly; refer to company policy — that is a successful rejection.
- The company can be liable for an agent's bribery. Paying to jump a queue = the official commits bribery.
- Duress = threat to physical security; safety first, payment allowed, must report.
- A resisted demand should still be reported. Corruption's extent and impact can be reduced.

## Sources

1. Maritime Anti-Corruption Network (MACN) — anti-corruption guidance for the maritime industry.
2. UK Bribery Act 2010 (and equivalent anti-bribery law) — offences of bribery and facilitation payments.