

March 21, 2005

MR'S ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-06-2005

TO : All Steamship Agents, Owners, and Operators

SUBJECT: Panama Canal Transit Reservation (Booking) System – Increase in the Number of Booking Slots Available for Regular Vessels

1. Considering the current limit in the number of booking slots available for regular vessels, and in order to provide a better service to our customers, effective March 26, 2005, for a period of sixty days during normal conditions, an additional booking slot will be offered in the 3rd period to regular (non-restricted) vessels. During this period, a maximum of nine booking slots will be available for regular vessels. Of these, no more than five vessels may be booked for transit in the same direction. Requests for the additional slot will be received beginning Tuesday, March 22, 2005.
2. Considerable efforts are already being made to allocate cancelled booking slots during the 3rd period, in accordance with MR Notice to Shipping No. N-7-2005, Rev. 1, specifically, paragraph d) of the Rules and Implementing Provisions, Article 22. In this regard, and in order for these efforts to be more effective, we encourage customers to submit booking requests, even if slots are not available, so that they may be included in our list of rejections and, consequently, be considered should a cancellation arise.
3. Furthermore, slots for regular (non-restricted) vessels cancelled after the closing of the 3rd period, but not later than 1100 hours the day before transit, may be offered first to those vessels that were unable to secure a slot during the 3rd period tie-breaker competition, followed by any subsequent rejections, in the order of rejection. Such vessels must have the same transit conditions as the vessel that cancelled its booking and be transiting in the same direction.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Capt. Arcelio Hartley
Acting Maritime Operations Director

