



September 7, 2005

**MR'S ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-31-2005**

**TO : ALL STEAMSHIP AGENTS, OWNERS, AND OPERATORS**

**SUBJECT: SMOKING PROHIBITION IN ENCLOSED AREAS ON VESSELS IN PANAMA CANAL WATERS**

Pursuant to Panama Canal Authority Regulation on Sanitation and Communicable Disease Prevention, the Administrator has issued Directive AD-2005-03 which prohibits smoking in enclosed areas in vessels in Panama Canal waters in the presence of ACP officials performing their duties.

The above-mentioned directive modified the Administrator's Directive AD-2002-06, which established the prohibition to smoke in all ACP installations and equipment, but excluded vessels within Panama Canal waters.

Based on Panama Canal Authority Regulation on Sanitation and Communicable Disease Prevention, the ACP will adopt general provisions of the National Health Authority and recommendations of the World Health Organization (WHO), as well as those deriving from international conventions to which Panama is a party in order to ensure the health and safety of the employees of the ACP.

During its fourth plenary session, the WHO, through its Frame Agreement concerning Tobacco Control, established that each party will adopt and enforce effective measures providing for protection from exposure to tobacco in enclosed working areas. The Panamanian National Assembly, through Law No. 17 of July 7, 2004, adopted these measures.

Therefore, effective immediately, all vessels within Panama Canal waters must comply with Directive AD-2005-03, which prohibits smoking in enclosed areas in vessels in Panama Canal waters while ACP officials are performing their duties.

**Should you have any specific inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact us at [mr@pancanal.com](mailto:mr@pancanal.com) .**

**ORIGINAL SIGNED**

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