

October 28, 2005

**MR'S ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-39-2005**

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

**SUBJECT: ACP REQUIRES DECLARATION REGARDING AVIAN FLU**

The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) is concerned with the recent outbreak of Avian Flu that has generated alarm in many countries. Although vessels are required to declare animal and diseases on board, as well as their last ten port calls, effective immediately the ACP will also require vessels to declare the following information in the visit remark section of the EDCS Ship Due form, prior to their arrival at Canal waters:

- Whether any reported birds (any type) have died on board;
- Whether any of the declared port calls are located in countries identified as having outbreaks of Avian Flu; and,
- Whether passengers or crewmembers on board are experiencing flu-like symptoms, and what has been the evolution of such condition.

Among the countries already identified as having outbreaks of Avian Flu are Turkey, Romania, Russia, Colombia, China, Thailand, Taiwan, Vietnam, Indonesia, Pakistan, Japan, South Korea, Cambodia and Laos.

Declaration of the above information is imperative in order to apply the appropriate measures to prevent any possible spreading of this virus. If your vessel has reported any of the above situations, health measures could include, but are not limited to, sanitary and health authorities boarding the vessel in order to investigate what has been declared.

**ORIGINAL SIGNED**

Jorge L. Quijano  
Maritime Operations Director