

December 5, 2005

MR'S ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-43-2005

TO : All Steamship Agents, Owners, and Operators

SUBJECT: Changes to the Panama Canal Transit Reservation (Booking) System

Effective January 1, 2006, the Panama Canal Authority (ACP) will offer two additional booking slots during normal conditions, thus increasing to 15 the number of booking slots available for *supers* (vessels of 91' beam or over). These additional slots will be available during the 3rd booking period, and applications for these slots will be received commencing at 0900 hours, Sunday, December 29, 2005. The distribution of booking slots will be as follows:

- No more than **nine** *supers* may be booked for transit in the southbound direction, and of these, no more than **seven** with "full daylight-hour" restrictions. Similarly, no more than **eight** *supers* may be booked for transit in the northbound direction, and of these, no more than **six** with "full daylight-hour" restrictions. The combined number of "full daylight-hour" restricted vessels shall not exceed **ten**.
- During Condition 2, no more than five *supers* may be booked for transit in the same direction, and of these, no more than **four** with "full daylight-hour" restrictions. The combined number of "full daylight-hour" restricted vessels shall not exceed **six**.

To increase the probability of securing a booking slot to vessels with rejected booking requests, the following will be permitted, provided booking slots are still available after the 3rd period competition during normal conditions (Condition 1):

- Before the closing of the 3rd booking period for *supers*, if there are still booking slots available, they may be offered first to *supers* that failed to secure a booking slot during the 3rd period tie-breaker competition (in the order of rejection), followed by any subsequent rejections, even if the assignment of these slots exceeds the established limits by direction or restrictions. If there are no rejections, or no *supers* interested in the remaining slots, they may be offered to regulars that were rejected during or after the 3rd period competition, in order of rejection.
- After the 3rd booking period competition for regulars, if there are still booking slots available, they may be offered first to regulars that failed to secure a slot during the 3rd period competition, in order of rejection, followed by any subsequent rejections, even if the assignment of these slots exceeds the established limit by direction. If there are no rejections, the available slots may be offered to any interested regular vessel(s).

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- Booking slots that are cancelled after the closing of the 3rd period, but prior to 1100 hours on the day preceding the booking date, may be offered first to those vessels that failed to secure a slot during the 3rd period tie-breaker competition, followed by any subsequent rejections, in order of rejection. These vessels must have the same or lesser restrictions as the vessels that cancelled, and must be transiting in the same direction.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Jorge L. Quijano
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