

December 22, 2005

**MR'S ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-46-2005**

**TO : All Steamship Agents, Owners, and Operators**

**SUBJECT: Reminder of Panama Canal Authority Navigation Regulation Covering Pre-Arrival Notification**

This advisory serves as a reminder that Article 30 of the Regulation on Navigation in Panama Canal Waters was modified effective July 1, 2003.

Despite previous notification, we continue to experience difficulties when preparing daily transit and resource schedules due to lack of or incomplete vessel pre-arrival information, which is required 96 hours prior to arriving at Panama Canal waters. Please note that revisions to previously submitted arrival information is permitted within the 96 hour period or when requested by ACP officials.

The required pre-arrival information is located within the Electronic Data Collection System (EDCS) modules:

- a. Ship due
- b. Cargo Declaration
- c. Crew List
- d. Passenger list

Exceptions to these requirements are described as follows; however, the 96 hour rule must be complied with:

- a. Passenger vessels with local call visits may send their crew list and passenger list to [acp-isps@pancanal.com](mailto:acp-isps@pancanal.com).
- b. All vessels with local call visits are required to submit only the dangerous cargo information through the EDCS cargo declaration module.
- c. Yachts or small craft vessels (under 125 feet in length) are required to submit only the "Small Craft Due" module upon arrival at Panama Canal waters to the specified ACP office, as previously set forth in Advisory A-24-2004. In addition, a computer terminal has been installed at building 729, Balboa, 1<sup>st</sup> floor (Admeasurement Unit).
- d. Military vessels are exempt from the cargo declaration requirements; however, they must declare whether or not the vessel is loaded.

The ACP has decided to postpone the detailed verification of vessel's cargo declaration for **full container vessels** only, until an additional EDCS CIG message format (i.e. BAPLIE) is available through the EDCS.

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For additional cargo declaration exemption information, please refer to Advisory A-38-2005.

Technical assistance for the EDCS is available at (507) 272-2222 or at [edcs\\_support@pancanal.com](mailto:edcs_support@pancanal.com)

Please be reminded that the timely submission of information regarding transiting vessels is essential and may affect the vessel's to-go status. Failure to provide accurate and timely information may result in delay of transit, the assignment of additional resources and/or the escorting of the vessel, as well as possible fines.

**ORIGINAL SIGNED**

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Maritime Operations Director