

October 20, 2006

**MR'S ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-31-2006**

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

**SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF ANNEX II TO MARPOL 73/78 AND REVISED IBC CODE**

Panama Canal Authority regulations require compliance with the MARPOL convention, including any subsequent amendments. The Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) issued Circular letter No.2730 in July 2006, whereby it announced the entry into force date of 1 January 2007, for the revised Annex II to MARPOL 73/78, as well as the amended International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk (IBC Code), as adopted by Resolutions MEPC.119(52) and MSC.176(79).

These revised amendments require that all ships (chemical and parcel tankers, as well as dry cargo ships with deep tanks) that are certified to carry Annex II liquids shall have new certificates of fitness issued, as well as comply with any other requirements under these revisions.

Recognizing the threat to the environment that ships carrying Annex II liquids may pose, and conscious of its responsibility to safeguard Canal waters, the ACP has determined that, in compliance with the above-referenced revisions and amendments to MARPOL, ships affected by these amendments must be in full compliance.

Effective 1 January 2007, all ships intending to transit the Panama Canal carrying Annex II liquids shall have all documents required by MARPOL Annex II onboard, and use them for their voyage planning purposes.

Ships carrying cargo that was loaded prior to the entry into force date of 1 January 2007 will be permitted to transit the Canal after 1 January 2007 under the old certificate of fitness only in order to reach their final destination to offload their cargo. However, ships carrying cargo that was loaded after 1 January 2007 will be required to fully comply with the revised MARPOL Annex II requirements.

The ACP shall be notified as early as possible, but not later than 96 hours prior to arrival at Panama Canal waters, of the status of any ship that is affected by the requirements under MARPOL Annex II. These notifications shall be forwarded to:

Chemist, Transit Operations Division  
Department of Maritime Operations  
Telephone: (507) 272-4218  
Fax: (507) 272-5501  
E-mail: [mrtc-ch1@pancanal.com](mailto:mrtc-ch1@pancanal.com)

**ORIGINAL SIGNED**

Arcelio H. Hartley  
Acting Maritime Operations Director