

November 21, 2006

MR'S ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-35-2006

TO : All Steamship Agents, Owners, and Operators

SUBJECT: Implementation of Annex II to MARPOL 73/78 and revised IBC Code

1. As indicated in MR'S ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-31-2006 "Implementation of Annex II to MARPOL 73/78 and revised IBC Code", effective January 1, 2007, all chemical and parcel tankers, as well as dry cargo ships with deep tanks intending to transit the Panama Canal, carrying liquids listed in Annex II of MARPOL 73/78, shall have onboard the new certifications as required by the amended MARPOL Annex II regulations. These regulations shall be used for their voyage planning purposes.
2. Therefore, in order to expedite the verification process of the compliance with the new or updated certification by the above-mentioned ships, operators are encouraged to submit to the Panama Canal Authority (ACP) in advance, preferably electronically, the following documents for each one of their vessels:
 - a. New or updated Certificate of Fitness. Temporary certificates will be accepted only for the first transit after 1 January, 2007, in the event the new certificates are being processed.
 - b. Updated List of Annex II Cargoes that may be carried by subject vessel, and;
 - c. International Pollution Prevention Certificate for vessels that intend to carry only Noxious Liquid Substances.
3. In addition to the above-mentioned documents, all chemical and parcel tankers and dry cargo ships with deep tanks, arriving with Annex II regulated cargo on or after January 1, 2007, are hereby requested to provide, at least ninety-six (96) hours prior to their arrival at Panama Canal waters, their stowage plans as well as the name of their last loading port and the departure date from that port.
4. The information requested in paragraphs 2 and 3 shall be sent to:

Chemist, Transit Operations Division
Department of Maritime Operations
Telephone: (507) 272-4112
Fax: (507) 272-3015
E-mail: mrtc-ch1@pancanal.com

5. Vessels that do not fully provide the requested documentation and information in advance may be subject to unnecessary delays or denial of transit, since the verification process will be done only after the documentation and information has been received in the above listed ACP office. Please take note that non-compliance with the requirements listed in the Amendments to Annex II of MARPOL 73/78 will be considered a violation of the Panama Canal Authority Maritime Regulations for the Operation of the Panama Canal.

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6. Vessels that do not fully comply with the amended Annex II of MARPOL 73/78 regulations may be approved for transit during the month of January 2007 on a one-time basis. If approved for transit, these vessels will be assigned additional resources as deemed necessary in order to guarantee a safe transit, be required to sign the Panama Canal Authority Form 4322 "Undertaking To Release and Indemnify" and may be requested to submit a guarantee prior to the transit. The additional resources will be assigned at the vessel's expense. No exceptions will be made after February 1, 2007.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Arcelio H. Hartley
Acting Maritime Operations Director