

December 2, 2008

**OP'S ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-31-2008**

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

**SUBJECT: Procedure to obtain authorization to perform hot work on board vessels in specific Canal water locations**

Effective January 1, 2009, the Panama Canal Authority will require a written request for the authorization to perform hot work on board vessels in any Canal water locations (i.e. anchorages, berths, docks). The request to perform hot work must be accompanied by a marine chemist certificate approving such specific hot work and both documents may be faxed to the Canal Port Captain's office at 272-5280.

In order for the ACP to consider these requests, the marine chemist certificate must be legible and include the following:

- a. Numeric or alphanumeric identifier for the certificate.
- b. Name of vessel.
- c. SIN and/or IMO number of vessel.
- d. Vessel type.
- e. Vessel's owner, agent or responsible party.
- f. Solicitant's name, telephone, and facsimile number.
- g. Vessel's actual location and location requested for work.
- h. Description of type and extent of hot work to be performed.
- i. Sketch or list of adjacent spaces, valves, piping, coils, or other shipboard components that may be affected by the hot work.
- j. Tests and inspections performed on the space to be worked in, adjacent spaces, and appurtenances. As a minimum, measurements of oxygen, combustible, and toxic gases shall be reported for each space. These requirements are especially important if the hot work is to be performed within or on the boundaries of a confined space.
- k. Date and time of inspection.
- l. Frequency of required re-inspections by a competent person.
- m. Conditions under which the marine chemist shall be consulted or recalled.
- n. Any additional requirements, limitations or restrictions, (such as fire watch, ventilation, or lock out & tag out), if any.
- o. Applicable NFPA 306 Standard Safety Designation(s).
- p. Name, signature, and license number of marine chemist.
- q. Signature for receipt of the marine chemist certificate by the solicitant or authorized representative, signifying that they understand the conditions, limitations, and requirements for maintaining conditions of issuance.

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Requests that fail to meet the aforementioned requirements will not be approved by ACP.

The hot work, as set forth by the marine chemist certificate, shall commence only after the ACP has issued written authorization; however, authorization shall not be construed as an endorsement by the ACP of the marine chemist certificate. Should the scope or conditions of the hot work to be performed change, a new request for authorization must be submitted with the updated information and accompanied by the applicable marine chemist certificate. The marine chemist certificate approving the hot work, as well as the authorization issued by the ACP, must be visibly posted aboard the vessel before the work is to commence.

Violation to obtain prior approval for the hot work to be performed will result in immediate suspension of the work and may incur in penalties and/or possible fines.

For further inquiries regarding this subject please contact 272-4219.

**ORIGINAL SIGNED**

Noris E. Lopez S.

Acting Executive Vice President of Operations