



June 17, 2009

OP'S ADVISORY TO SHIPPING NO. A-10-2009

TO: ALL STEAMSHIP AGENTS, OWNERS, AND OPERATORS

SUBJECT: SAFE BOARDING WEEK 2009

The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) considers proper boarding facilities to be an absolute necessity to ensure the safety of their personnel, as well as others using these facilities while transiting the Canal. In order to promote awareness and compliance with Canal requirements by vessels in Canal waters, the ACP will hold its Annual "Safe Boarding Week" from July 13 through 17, 2009. During this period, the ACP will emphasize and encourage safe boarding practices on all vessels arriving at the waterway.

"Safe Boarding Week" activities will include inspections of boarding facilities by teams representing groups who normally board vessels, such as Canal Port Captains, Pilots, Transit Vessel Inspectors, Chemists, Emergency Response personnel, Admeasurers, Line Handlers, as well as Ship's Agents.

This year the ACP will continue promoting preventive measures to be taken in order to avoid the tripping hazard created by the retrieving line attached to the pilot ladder, as well as the excess portion of the pilot ladder, which is very often laid out on deck. The ACP suggests a box-like structure be placed over the excess portion of the ladder that may be encountered at the embarkation point on deck. This will provide for a flat, non-slippery surface as persons transfer from the ladder to the deck of the vessel. This structure may be permanent or may be constructed so that it is lightweight and portable, allowing for it to be used only when the situation warrants.

Vessels at both Cristobal and Balboa Anchorages will be boarded to inspect their boarding facility arrangements utilizing the enclosed inspection checklist. Vessels' Masters will be provided with the results of the inspection. Any vessel with boarding facilities determined to be below accepted standards, shall correct the deficiencies prior to transit.

This document is cancelled automatically for record purposes on July 31, 2009.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Manuel E. Benítez
Executive Vice President of Operations

Enclosure