

**AUTORIDAD DEL CANAL DE PANAMÁ  
OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT**

**ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-17-2012**

July 10, 2012

**TO :** All Shipping Agents, Owners, and Operators  
**SUBJECT:** Reminder of Panama Canal Authority Navigation Regulation on Pre-Arrival Information Required for Transit

In our ongoing efforts to enhance the service offered to the Maritime Industry, the Panama Canal Authority (ACP) would like to remind our customers that, as established by Article 30 of the Regulation on Navigation in Panama Canal waters, all vessels arriving for transit or port calls at the terminal ports of Balboa and Cristobal shall provide the ACP the required information not less than 96 hours in advance of arrival. Timely submittal of this information is essential for appropriate assignment of resources and applicable restrictions, if necessary.

Additionally, vessels over 150 feet LOA are required to submit Form 1743, Pre-arrival Vessel Information, no later than 48 hours prior to arrival. The visibility from conning positions 1, 2, and 3 reported in this document shall be expressed in ship lengths calculated for tropical salt water.

Revisions to arrival information previously submitted are permitted no later than 36 hours without affecting the vessel's transit schedule, but such notification must be sent to [Arqueadores@pancanal.com](mailto:Arqueadores@pancanal.com). Failure to do so may result in the assignment of resources and the application of charges based on previously submitted information.

Non-compliance with these requirements, or providing incorrect or incomplete information, may delay the transit or docking of the vessel.

The following formula shall be used to calculate the visibility:

$$BD = \left( \frac{Dh + Lc \left( \frac{Dh1 - Dh}{LBP + Lc - La} \right) - Draft - \left( \frac{Trim}{2} \right)}{\left( \frac{Trim}{LBP} \right) + \left( \frac{Dh1 - Dh}{LBP + Lc - La} \right)} \right) - Lc$$

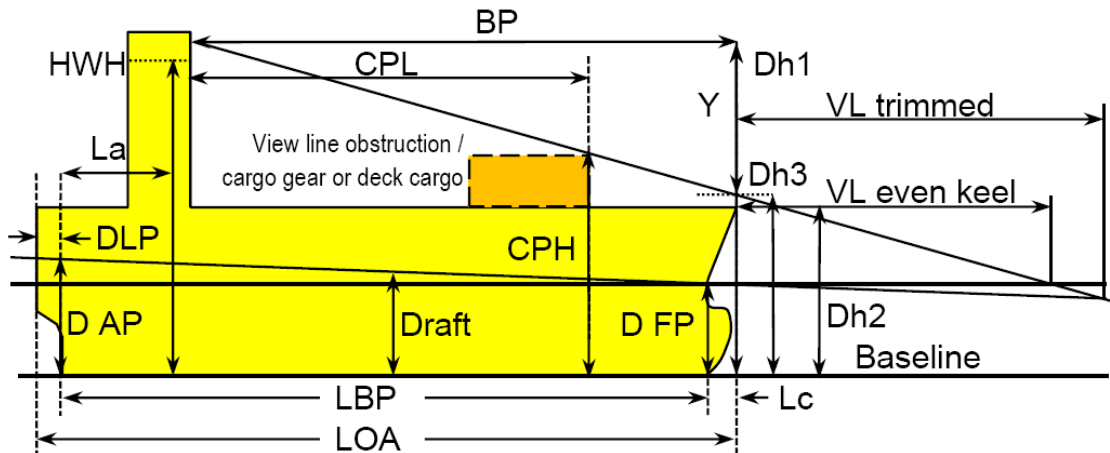
$$VL = BD / LOA$$

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Where:

- VL = Visibility in ship Length
- BD = Blind Distance
- LOA = Length Over All
- LBP = Length Between Perpendiculars
- BP = Longitudinal distance from wheelhouse front Bulkhead to Prow
- La = Longitudinal distance from the After Perpendicular (AP) to pilot position =  $LOA - BP - DLP - 0.75$
- Lc = Longitudinal distance from the Forward Perpendicular (FP) to Prow =  $LOA - LBP - DLP$
- Dh1 = Height from baseline to wheelhouse deck plus 1.8m =  $HWH + 1.8$
- HWH = Height from baseline to Wheelhouse deck
- Dh = Highest value between the heights resulting from Dh2 and Dh3
- Dh2 = Height from Baseline to top of Prow
- Dh3 = Height at prow from baseline to intercept of obstructed view line =  $Dh1 - Y$
- Y = Height from view line obstruction/cargo gear or deck cargo to pilot's height of eye projected to the prow of the vessel =  $(Dh1 - CPH)(BP + 0.75) / (CPL + 0.75)$
- CPH = Critical Point Height from baseline to top of deck cargo obstructing the view line
- CPL = Critical Point Length from the wheelhouse front bulkhead to the view line obstruction/cargo gear or deck cargo
- DLP = Distance Longitudinal from transom to the after Perpendicular (AP)
- Draft = Mean of drafts at the perpendiculars =  $(D AP + D FP) \div 2$
- Trim = Trim of the vessel (negative by the stern, positive by the head) =  $D FP - D AP$
- D AP = Draft at the After Perpendicular (AP)
- D FP = Draft at the Forward Perpendicular (FP)

**Note:** The longitudinal pilot position and pilot's height of eye used in the above calculations conform to Regulation 22.1.8 of SOLAS 2009 Chapter V, which states "The upper edge of the navigation bridge front windows shall allow a forward of the horizon, for a person with a height of eye of 1,800mm above the bridge deck at the conning position". The longitudinal distance of the pilot position for use in the above is clarified as 0.75m aft from the wheelhouse front bulkhead. Metric units shall be used in the above formulas.

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To facilitate the pre-arrival process and provide for expeditious scheduling of vessels, a copy of the General Arrangement Plan must be sent to [Arqueadores@pancanal.com](mailto:Arqueadores@pancanal.com) or [ACP-Shiplans@pancanal.com](mailto:ACP-Shiplans@pancanal.com), in pdf or AutoCAD format, at least 96 hours prior to the vessel's ETA.

We are committed to promoting a naturally beneficial relationship and to continue offering our customers the best possible service.

**ORIGINAL SIGNED**

Manuel E. Benitez  
Executive Vice President of Operations