

**AUTORIDAD DEL CANAL DE PANAMÁ
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENCY FOR OPERATIONS**

ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-22-2013

August 29, 2013

TO : All Shipping Agents, Owners, and Operators
SUBJECT: Panama Canal Pilotage Regulations and Training of Pilots

The Panama Canal enjoys an excellent safety record, which is mainly due to the extensive training that is required of our pilots. In order to continue providing this excellent service, training on board transiting vessels is essential. Nevertheless, a number of recent reports have brought to our attention the reluctance of several masters to allow Panama Canal pilots in training to maneuver their vessels under the supervision and control of qualified Panama Canal pilots as part of their required training program.

Pilotage is compulsory in Canal waters based on the Regulation on Navigation in Panama Canal Waters, Article 90, Section One, Chapter V, Pilotage. Additionally, Article 92 states that the pilot assigned to a vessel shall have control of the navigation and movement of such a vessel. Masters should be made aware; therefore, that Panama Canal pilots on board vessels are in control of the navigation and are not in an advisory capacity. This control does not cease while a pilot in training is executing maneuvers under the supervision of the qualified pilot. An integral and fundamental part of their training is precisely the hands-on part, which can only be performed by allowing them to execute maneuvers and handle vessels while transiting our waterway.

We kindly request shipping agents, owners and operators of transiting vessels or vessels calling at our terminal ports to disseminate this information to the masters of these vessels.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Esteban G. Sáenz
Executive Vice President for Operations