

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

ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-32-2013

November 29, 2013

TO : All Shipping Agents, Owners, and Operators
SUBJECT: **Temporary Reduction in the Number of Available Booking Slots and Additional Measures to Reduce the Backlog**

During the past weeks the Panama Canal has experienced an increase in backlog, mainly due to the arrival of large (91' beam or over) vessels, coupled with a high incidence of fog in the months of October and November. Several measures have been taken to date to reduce this backlog, such as the suspension of all routine maintenance at the Locks until further notice; addition of locks crews for relay operations; and the addition of tugs and tugboat crews to assist in transits.

Additional measures that are being implemented until further notice are as follows:

- Temporary reduction in the number of booking slots for supers. The number of available booking slots for supers will be reduced to 16 effective December 3, 2013.
- Temporary suspension of the *Just-In-Time* transit service. Vessels that have already been confirmed for the *Just-In-Time* service will be honored.

Applications for reserved transits under this booking condition will be received commencing at 0900 hours, November 30, 2013. The booking slot available through the auction process as well as the slots available for vessels less than 300 feet in length will continue to be offered. The limits by direction and restriction will remain unchanged.

The Canal continues to monitor the situation and assures its customers that all necessary measures are being taken to reduce the current backlog to return to normal levels.

This document is cancelled for record purposes on December 31, 2013.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Esteban G. Sáenz
Executive Vice President for Operations