

AUTORIDAD DEL CANAL DE PANAMÁ
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENCY FOR OPERATIONS

ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-04-2015

January 30, 2015

TO : All Shipping Agents, Owners, and Operators

SUBJECT: Replacement of the Electronic Data Collection System (EDCS)

The Panama Canal Authority, (ACP) is responsible to its customers for ensuring the most efficient use of its resources and for providing the best level of service and security. The ACP has initiated the replacement of the Electronic Data Collection System (EDCS) with the "*Maritime Service Portal*," which is scheduled a partial "going live" on February 5, 2015 and full implementation scheduled for March 2015.

The *Maritime Service Portal* will add state of the art platforms allowing ACP to progressively include additional functionality and long term improvements in order to provide the best level of security possible to our customers. It will allow us to improve the process of data submission required for maritime services, as well as render improved services to our valued customers and business partners.

With the upcoming implementation of the *Maritime Service Portal*, ACP has initiated the following processes:

- Business to Business (B2B) Gateway processes (old Canal Internet Gateway): Accreditation on cargo, crew or passenger declaration has begun in the ACP accreditation environment. In order to provide the new credentials and transmission site ids, required for declared information for your vessel's visit, we encourage our clients to finalize the required test prior to February 20, 2015.

- User profile update: All user profile information is required to be revised and updated by your company to properly create the correct access and its corresponding users and password. All current EDCS users have been requested to update their information. Please note that a new user id and password will be generated.

The partial implementation allows access to *Maritime Service Portal* "*Virtual training*." ACP will provide a new user id and password to all current users who have provided user profile updates. We encourage you to log in, change your password, configure your security questions and begin the virtual training in order to be prepared for the full implementation date.

The full implementation includes the following functionality, among others:

- Create vessel's visit using intuitive web forms.
- In order to monitor the vessel's visit required information, the *Maritime Service Portal* allows you to declare the vessel's arrival condition using straight and simple questions.

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- During the partial implementation, offline web forms will be the only method available for declaring the vessel's visit required information such as, security, vessel structural changes, crew, and vessel's visibility, among others.
- Offline web form templates will be available from your declared vessel's visit as zip files. If these files are to be sent via electronic mail, the sender and recipient are required to process up to 2MB.
- These offline web forms generate a file that may be uploaded to your vessel's visit that has already been declared in the Maritime Service Portal.

In order to minimize impact on your part, all planned vessel's visit declared in the EDCS will be uploaded to the *Maritime Service Portal*, prior to the full implementation date of March 2015, and preserve the same CIG/B2B format during this transition.

During this process our team will maintain close communication with our current EDCS users regarding the final implementation date so that you will be fully prepared.

We have included additional information for the new *Maritime Service Portal* in the following web link: <http://micanaldepanama.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/EDCS.mp4>.

We appreciate your cooperation and apologize for any inconvenience this replacement may cause; however, we believe that the new *Maritime Service Portal* will meet our mutual needs. If you have any question, please do not hesitate to contact us at customerservice@pancanal.com.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

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