



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

3654-A (OPXI)  
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**ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-20-2016**

April 22, 2016

**TO** : All Shipping Agents, Owners, and Operators

**SUBJECT:** Selection of the First Vessel to Transit the Expanded Panama Canal

The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) announces to the maritime community the procedure for the selection of the vessel for the inaugural transit through the new locks of Agua Clara and Cocolí on June 26, 2016.

- The inauguration of the expanded Panama Canal will take place on June 26, 2016. Only one Neopanamax vessel in a southbound direction will be allowed to transit on the inaugural day during daylight hours. Regular commercial transits through the new locks will begin on June 27, 2016.
- The inaugural transit will be allocated among the top 15 Panama Canal customers, in accordance with the customer ranking used for bookings as of April 2016, published in <https://www.pancanal.com/eng/maritime/transit/index.html>
- The ACP has sent letters to its customers with the highest ranking inviting them to participate in the draw for the selection of the shipping line that will deploy the first vessel through the new locks. In the event that an invited customer declines its participation, the ACP may send an invitation to the next customer on the ranking list, up to the customer with a weighted ranking value of less than 16.
- A customer who has been invited and is interested in participating, must indicate the name, vessel type, and dimensions (length and beam) of the Neopanamax vessel(s) that it proposes to deploy on the inaugural day. The confirmation of willingness to participate must be submitted before 0900 hours on April 28, 2016.
- The ACP, through the Executive Vice Presidency of Operations, will verify that each vessel complies with ACP requirements. For this purpose, the customer shall submit the documentation required for technical review and approval by the ACP.
- The proposed vessel shall have a beam not greater than 49 meters and a length overall not greater than 366 meters. Gas carriers will not be considered for the inaugural transit for security reasons. The maximum draft allowed for the inaugural transit will be 12.5 meters Tropical Fresh Water (TFW).

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- The draw for the selection of the inaugural transit will take place at 0900 hours on April 29, 2016, on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Panama Canal Administration Building located in Balboa Heights. This event will be open to the public and a Notary Public will serve as witness.
- The draw will be carried out with ballots and a Notary Public will insert the name of each participant in a different ballot.
- A child between five and ten years of age will select the first ballot and will hand it to the Notary Public, who will announce the winner of the draw. Afterwards, a second ballot will be picked by the same child, for the selection of the shipping line that will be able to deploy a vessel for the inaugural transit in the event that the winner informs by May 10th that it will not be able to deploy an approved vessel for transiting on June 26, 2016.
- The Notary Public will then open all remaining ballots in order to show that all customers who participated in the process were included in the draw.
- The winner of the draw is required to pay all costs associated with the inaugural transit, including booking fees and related marine services, which will be charged in accordance with ACP published tariffs.
- For information on the operation of the expanded Panama Canal, please visit <https://www.pancanal.com/eng/multimedia/videos/20160310/>

**ORIGINAL SIGNED**

Esteban G. Sáenz  
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