



AUTORIDAD DEL CANAL DE PANAMÁ
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENCY FOR OPERATIONS

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ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-43-2016

August 12, 2016

TO : All Shipping Agents, Owners, and Operators

SUBJECT: AUTOMATIC IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (AIS) INFORMATION

The purpose of this advisory is to reiterate the importance that the information transmitted by the vessels' Automatic Identification System (AIS) is complete and accurate.

The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) has been monitoring AIS messages and have encountered that many vessels were transmitting incomplete or incorrect data. The most common deficiencies found are as follows:

- Vessels static data is loaded incorrectly or not present at all. For example: Incomplete or incorrect MMSI, Vessel's name, vessel's dimensions and AIS GPS antenna position.
- Some vessels are not transmitting heading information or the information is incorrect.
- The pilot plug is not located near Conning Position 1 or it is wired incorrectly. The correct wiring, as seen from the AIS equipment, as established by IMO's "Guideline for Installation of Shipborne Automatic Identification System", is as follows:
 - TX A is connected to Pin 1
 - TX B is connected to Pin 4
 - RX A is connected to Pin 5
 - RX B is connected to Pin 6
 - Shield is connected to Pin 9
- There is no power receptacle near the AIS pilot plug or the power receptacle has a voltage not compatible with the pilot's laptop. The voltage must be 120 VAC 50/60Hz.

For the Panama Canal AIS requirements, please refer to OP Notice to Shipping N-01-2016, available at <https://www.pancanal.com/eng/op/notices/2016/N01-2016.pdf>. It is essential that all masters verify that their vessels' AIS System is transmitting complete and accurate data so that full advantage is taken of the Automatic Identification System (AIS). Non-compliant vessels require that a supplemental tracking device be brought on board, with an associated fee.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

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