

## ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-20-2017

June 16, 2017

**TO :** All Shipping Agents, Owners, and Operators  
**SUBJECT:** Modifications to the Transit Reservation System

The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) announces the following changes to the transit reservation system:

**Booking Condition 1 for Panamax Locks.** The number of booking slots available during Condition 1 in the Panamax locks is being set at 15 for supers and 8 for regulars. Effective June 17, 2017, the limits per direction and restriction for supers will be as follows:

LIMITS PER DIRECTION - SUPERS*			
BOOKING CONDITION	NORTH	SOUTH	MAXIMUM # OF SLOTS
1	8	8	15
1.a	7	7	13
2 & 3	6	6	10

\*does not include the auctioned booking slot

LIMITS PER RESTRICTION - SUPERS*			
BOOKING CONDITION	NORTH	SOUTH	MAXIMUM # OF DAYLIGHT SLOTS*
1 & 1.a	4	4	8
2 & 3	4	4	6

\*does not include the auctioned booking slot

For regular vessels, the maximum number of booking slots during Condition 1 is being limited to four per direction.

The distribution of slots per period under Condition 1 for vessels in the Panamax locks is being set as follows:

SLOT DISTRIBUTION PER PERIODS, CONDITION 1*					
VESSEL CATEGORY	Passenger Period	1 <sup>st</sup> Booking Period	2 <sup>nd</sup> Booking Period	3 <sup>rd</sup> Booking Period	Total
Supers: 91' (27.74m) in beam and over	3	4	3	5	15
Regulars: under 91' (27.74m) in beam	3	-	1	4	8

\*does not include the auctioned booking slot

This distribution provides scheduling flexibility, optimizes Canal's resources, allowing us to provide a better service to our customers. In order to improve operational efficiency, further adjustments may be made as deemed necessary.

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**Extension of the Special Period for Passenger Vessels.** At the request of our customers, the special period for commercial passenger vessels will be increased from 547 days to 730 days prior to the requested transit date. Booking slot limits for passenger vessels in the Panamax locks will remain the same. Only one (1) Neopanamax commercial passenger vessel will be allowed to book per day. Application for booking slots for all dates of the extended special period will be received beginning at 0900 hours, June 23, 2017.

**Booking Slots that Become Available during the First or Second Period due to Cancellations or Changes in Booking Dates.** Effective June 20, 2017, booking slots that become available during the first or second period due to cancellations, changes in booking dates or other reasons, will no longer be offered to vessels that did not obtain a slot during or after the competition. Instead, they will be offered through a special competition in the following manner:

- A notification will be sent by the ACP not later than 1530 hours of the day following the day the slots become available.
- Requests for bookings during the special competition will be received from 0900 to 0930 hours of the day following the date of publication of the availability of the slots. The procedure to allocate slots during this special competition period will be the same as the procedure utilized to allocate slots during the regular tiebreaker competition.
- In order for a vessel to be considered for these slots, the request must be submitted during the special competition period. Any booking request received prior to the opening of the special competition will not be accepted.
- If there are no vessels interested in the slot(s) offered during the special competition, the slot(s) will then become available on a *first come-first served* basis for the remainder of the period.
- If a cancellation or a change in transit date occurs on the last day of the first or second period, the slot that becomes available will be carried over to the following period, and will be offered through the normal competition process.
- Vessels that have requested a booking slot for a particular date and were rejected due to unavailability of slots, but subsequently obtain a slot for an alternate date, will be allowed to change to the original date without being assessed a cancellation fee (if awarded the slot), provided that they participate in the competition for the slot; and that the reservation for the alternate date was awarded in the same booking period, but prior to the slot becoming available.

Slots cancelled during the third period will be offered first to those vessels that failed to secure a slot during the third period tiebreaker competition, followed by subsequent rejections, in the order of rejection, and finally, to any other interested vessels, on a *first come-first served* basis, following ACP notification of availability.

**Substitutions between booked vessels and a non-booked vessels.** Effective June 17, 2017, substitutions will be allowed without charge provided they are requested at least 7 days in advance of the vessel's booking date, instead of the previous 14 day requirement.

We look forward to continue serving you in the future.

**ORIGINAL SIGNED**

Nicolas A. Solano  
Acting Executive Vice President  
for Operations