

**AUTORIDAD DEL CANAL DE PANAMÁ**  
VICE PRESIDENCY FOR TRANSIT BUSINESS**ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-37-2019**

September 24, 2019

**TO** : All Shipping Agents, Owners, and Operators**SUBJECT:** Modification to BAPLIE File Requirement for Full Container Vessels

In an effort to provide greater flexibility to the shipping community, effective October 1, 2019, the current 0700 hours deadline for submitting the BAPLIE file for transiting full container vessels will be extended to 0900 hours of the day following the transit date. In addition, if the day following the transit date falls on a weekend or an official holiday, the BAPLIE file and a Container Summary form shall be received no later than 0900 hours of the first business day following the transit date.

For vessels performing cargo operations prior to transit, in ports adjacent to the sea entrances of the Canal (Balboa, Cristobal and Manzanillo Bay, the BAPLIE file generated after cargo operations and a revised Container Summary form signed and stamped by the master shall be submitted prior to 0900 hours of the day following the transit date. If the day following the transit date falls on a weekend or an official holiday, the BAPLIE file and a Container Summary form must be received no later than 0900 hours of the first business day following the transit date. In the event that the revised Container Summary form is not received, the Panama Canal Authority (ACP) reserves the right to determine the variable portion of the tolls to be invoiced.

Extensions to the 0900 hours deadline may be requested by the vessel's local agency through the Panama Maritime Single Window (VUMPA). If the extension request and the BAPLIE file are received prior to 1000 hours on the day following the transit date, tariff item #1084.0020 of the Marine Tariff will be applied. If the extension request and the BAPLIE file are received after 1000 hours, but prior to 1000 hours on the second day following the transit date, tariff item #1084.0025 of the Marine Tariff will be applied. The procedures regarding how to submit the BAPLIE extension request in VUMPA may be obtained through [customerservice@pancanal.com](mailto:customerservice@pancanal.com).

Full container vessels arriving only for local calls, or arriving for transit in ballast condition (no commercial cargo and/or empty containers onboard and will not perform cargo operation in local ports), are not required to submit BAPLIE files. However, a detailed cargo declaration is still required at least 96 hours prior to the vessel's arrival to Canal waters.

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The ACP has the exclusive right to determine if the information submitted by the vessel through the BAPLIE file and the information declared in the Container Summary form is accurate, adequate or complete as well as the corresponding tolls the vessel shall pay to transit. If the information submitted by the vessel is inaccurate, inadequate, incomplete, or untimely, the variable portion of the tolls shall be the product of multiplying the vessel's total TEU allowance, according to the Regulation for the Admeasurement of Vessels to Assess Tolls for the Use of the Panama Canal, by the corresponding rate according to the applicable category, or the product of multiplying the number of TEUs with cargo aboard while transiting the Canal, by the corresponding rate, whichever is greater.

We appreciate your business and trust that these modifications will result in an improved service for your future transits through the Panama Canal.

**ORIGINAL SIGNED**

Ilya R. Espino de Marotta  
Vice President for Transit Business