

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Spanish is the official language of the Agreements issued by the Panama Canal Authority Board of Directors. The English translation is intended solely for the purpose of facilitating an overall understanding of the content of the original version for the benefit of those persons who do not speak Spanish. Therefore, for official purposes, please refer to the specific Agreement in its Spanish version.

**AGREEMENT No. 308
(of June 29, 2017)**

“Whereby the Regulation on Navigation in Panama Canal Waters is amended”

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE PANAMA CANAL AUTHORITY**

WHEREAS:

Article 18.5.e. of Law 19 of June 11, 1997, establishes that the Board of Directors of the Panama Canal Authority shall approve the regulations applicable to the admeasurement and inspection of vessels, Canal navigation, marine traffic control, vessel pilotage, and other matters relative to Canal navigation.

In exercising this authority, the Board of Directors approved the Regulation on Navigation in Panama Canal Waters by means of Agreement No. 13 of June 3, 1999, as well as other approved subsequent amendments.

That due to the requirements and the increasing demand of the container vessel segment, the Administration considered it convenient to revise the rules concerning the scheduling, reservation, order and transit preference of ships contained in the Third Section, Chapter I, Generalities of the aforementioned regulation, so that the Authority has more flexibility to meet this segment’s transit needs, in order to maximize its economic contributions and benefits to the Canal, as well as the services it can offer.

The Administration deems it appropriate to amend Article 19 of the Regulation for Navigation on Panama Canal Waters, so that the requirements relating to the container vessel segment can be better met, allowing the establishment of new services of said ships through the waterway, in addition to maintaining current services. This modification allows the Authority to grant transit preference to container vessels with transit reservation, to the extent that such treatment does not impair the safe and efficient operation of the Canal, which would result in greater options for this segment to obtain slots within the different reservation periods determined by the Authority.

The Administrator of the Authority has submitted a draft containing the pertinent amendments to the Board of Directors for its consideration.

**AGREEMENT No. 308
of June 29, 2017**

IT AGREES:

ARTICLE ONE: Article 19 of the Regulations on Navigation in Panama Canal Waters is amended to read as follows:

“**Article 19:** Commercial passenger vessels shall be given transiting preference over other vessels, provided they have acquired a transit reservation, and to the extent that such treatment does not impair the safe and efficient operation of the Canal. In addition, the Authority may give transiting preference to container vessels with a transit reservation, to the extent that such treatment does not impair the safe and efficient operation of the Canal”.

ARTICLE TWO: The articles of the Regulation on Navigation in Panama Canal Waters not amended in this Agreement, keep their text and validity.

ARTICLE THREE: This Agreement shall come into effect as of the date of its publication in the Panama Canal Registry.

Issued in the City of Panama, on the twenty-ninth (29th) day of the month of June of the year two thousand and seventeen (2017).

TO BE PUBLISHED AND ENFORCED.

Roberto R. Roy
Minister for Canal Affairs
Signed

Rossana Calvosa de Fabrega
Secretary
Signed