

July 11, 2005

MR'S ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-21-2005

TO : All Steamship Agents, Owners, and Operators

SUBJECT: 2005 SAFE BOARDING WEEK

1. The Panama Canal Authority considers proper boarding facilities to be an absolute necessity to ensure the safety of operating personnel as well as others using these facilities while transiting the Canal. To promote awareness and compliance with Canal requirements by transiting vessels, the Panama Canal Annual "Safe Boarding Week" will be held this year from July 25 through 29. During this period, the ACP will emphasize and encourage safe boarding and debarkation of all vessels arriving at the waterway.
2. "Safe Boarding Week" activities will involve inspections of boarding facilities by teams representing groups who regularly board transiting vessels, such as Admeasurers, Pilots, Deckhands, Transit Vessel Inspectors, Canal Port Captains, Pilots, Chemists and Emergency Response personnel, as well as ship's agents.
3. Vessels in both Cristobal and Balboa anchorages will be boarded to inspect their arrangements for embarking and disembarking. They will be inspected utilizing the attached inspection checklist. Vessel masters will be provided with the results at the end of the inspection.
4. Those vessels deserving special recognition for excellence will be presented with plaques that will be forwarded through their local agents. Any vessel with boarding facilities determined to be below accepted standards, will have to correct the deficiencies prior to transit.
5. This document is cancelled automatically for record purposes on July 31, 2005.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Jorge L. Quijano
Maritime Operations Director

[Attachment](#)

