

May 29, 2007

MR'S ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-09-2007

TO : All Steamship Agents, Owners, and Operators

SUBJECT: 2007 SAFE BOARDING WEEK

The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) considers proper boarding facilities to be an absolute necessity to ensure the safety of their personnel, as well as others using these facilities while transiting the Canal. In order to promote awareness and compliance with Canal requirements by vessels in Canal waters, the ACP will hold its Annual "Safe Boarding Week" from June 25 through 29, 2007. During this period, the ACP will emphasize and encourage safe boarding practices on all vessels arriving at the waterway.

"Safe Boarding Week" activities will involve inspections of boarding facilities by teams representing groups who normally 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.

This year the ACP will continue promoting preventive measures to be taken in order to avoid the tripping hazard created by the excess portion of the pilot ladders, which is very often laid out on deck. The ACP suggests the use of a box-like structure to be placed over the excess portion of the ladder that may be encountered at the embarkation point on deck. This will provide for a flat, non-slippery surface as persons transfer from the ladder to the deck of the vessel. This structure may be permanent or may be constructed so that it is lightweight and portable allowing for it to be used only as the situation warrants.

Vessels at both Cristobal and Balboa anchorages will be boarded to inspect their boarding facility arrangements utilizing the enclosed inspection checklist. Vessels' Masters will be provided with the results at the end of the inspection.

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 the acceptable standards will be required to correct the deficiencies prior to their transit.

This document is cancelled automatically for record purposes on July 31, 2007.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Manuel E. Benítez
Operations Director

[Enclosure](#)