ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-23-2013

August 29, 2013

TO :  All Shipping Agents, Owners, and Operators
SUBJECT:  Pilot Accommodations on board Vessels Transiting the Panama Canal

It has been brought to our attention the reluctance of some masters to provide adequate accommodations to Panama Canal pilots while transiting their vessels.

It is greatly appreciated that pilots required to stay on board while not actually engaged in the duties of piloting be provided with a cabin that is clean, serviceable, darkened and equivalent to an officer’s cabin. These cabins should have a private working toilet facility. However, the use of a ship’s hospital or a cabin that belongs to a member of the crew is not acceptable.

Although a great majority of the vessels transiting the Panama Canal comply with this, we kindly request that shipping agents, owners and operators disseminate this information to the masters of transiting vessels.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

__________________________
Esteban G. Sáenz
Executive Vice President for Operations