



**AUTORIDAD DEL CANAL DE PANAMÁ**  
VICE PRESIDENCY FOR TRANSIT BUSINESS

3654-A (NTXI)  
V. 8-1-2019

**ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-29-2019**

August 1, 2019

**TO** : All Shipping Agents, Owners, and Operators

**SUBJECT:** Use of Mooring Tails (pennants) with High-Modulus Polyethylene (HMPE) Lines

Following best practices recommended by the maritime industry and rope manufacturers when using HMPE (high-modulus polyethylene) ropes, the Panama Canal Authority (ACP) hereby requires the attachment and use of mooring tails (pennants) when the vessel is providing HMPE lines for mooring and lockage operations within the Panama Canal. Mooring tails attached to the end of HMPE mooring lines are required in order to provide ease of handling as well as the necessary elasticity to absorb the usual dynamic loads generated during mooring and lockage operations.

Tails must be properly matched and connected to the specific HMPE line with which they are going to work. The size, material and length of the mooring tails (pennants) shall comply with the requirements by the HMPE line manufacturer.

Additionally, Section 20 of NT Notice to Shipping N-1-2019, "Vessel Requirements", establishes the requirement for at least one officer and two seamen to be stationed fore and aft, respectively, to handle lines and machinery (winches) expeditiously when approaching a lock; while moored temporarily to a lock wall; when entering, in or leaving a lock chamber; when docking, undocking, or mooring to a tie-up station; when receiving and letting go tug lines; or when so requested by the pilot.

During mooring operations at the locks, the above-mentioned deck personnel shall follow the instructions of the ACP deckhand leaders stationed at the bow and at the stern, who coordinate the actions of the mooring team onboard the vessel and ashore. Constant communication and coordination with all parts of the mooring team enhances the safety and efficiency of the mooring operation.

**ORIGINAL SIGNED**

Ilya R. Espino de Marotta  
Vice President for Transit Business