



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

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

**ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-39-2019**

November 6, 2019

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

**SUBJECT:** Reminder concerning Fuel Requirements in the Panama Canal

The upcoming international sulphur cap for marine fuels (IMO 2020), which will go into effect January 1, 2020, has prompted numerous inquiries to the Panama Canal Authority (ACP) regarding the types of fuels that will be permitted while in Panama Canal waters. As a result, the following information is provided as a summarized guide of the fuels and arrangements suitable for anchoring, transiting, and docking at terminals in Panama Canal waters.

The current mandate to switch to marine distillate fuel as published in NT NOTICE TO SHIPPING No. N-1-2019 "Vessel Requirements" is maintained. All vessels proceeding to Panama Canal waters for transit shall switch from residual fuel to marine distillate fuel prior to arriving at Panama Canal waters. However, these requirements allow for cases whereby vessels may supplement or replace marine distillate fuels with LNG fuel, biofuels, closed loop scrubbers, and ULSFO & VLSFO not exceeding a viscosity of 70 centistokes @ 50°C.

Some exceptions will still apply to the requirement to switch to marine distillate fuel. Vessels making only a local port call and not transiting will not be required to switch to marine distillate fuel. Additionally, vessels anchoring prior to transit will be permitted to use residual fuel for their auxiliary generator engines, boilers, and other ancillary equipment while at the Pacific and Atlantic Anchorages, only if they are capable of maintaining their main propulsion engines simultaneously on marine distillate fuel.

In order to preserve the quality of its waters, especially freshwater reservoirs, the ACP prohibits the use of open loop scrubbers. Similarly, closed loop scrubbers and hybrid scrubbers in a closed loop mode shall retain all effluents on board.

Attached please find the complete set of fuel requirements, as well as the information to be forwarded to the ACP in order to verify compliance with this regulation.

Further inquiries on the subject matter shall be directed to [fuel-compliance@pancanal.com](mailto:fuel-compliance@pancanal.com).

**ORIGINAL SIGNED**

Rogelio A. Gordon  
Acting Vice President for Transit Business

Attachment:  
Fuel Requirements in the Panama Canal