

AUTORIDAD DEL CANAL DE PANAMÁ
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENCY FOR OPERATIONS

ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-03-2013

January 28, 2013

TO : All Shipping Agents, Owners, and Operators

SUBJECT: Just-in-Time Service Trial Period

The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) is currently exploring new options to the presently required arrival times for booked vessels, as established in Section Three of the Regulation on Navigation in Panama Canal Waters. In this regard, the ACP is developing the concept of a *just-in-time* service, which would allow booked vessels to arrive at an hour much closer to their scheduled transit time instead of arriving earlier, having to remain for several hours at anchor before actually beginning their transit.

In order to properly evaluate the functionality of this new service and determine the regulations that may be required for the same, the ACP will be conducting a trial period beginning February 1, 2013, for up to 60 calendar days.

Participation in the trial will be limited exclusively to booked vessels. These must be equipped with a type A AIS device and must have submitted the "*Just-In-Time Service Trial Period Request Form*" no later than 96 hours prior to 0900 hours of the intended transit date, via email to booking@pancanal.com or by fax to 272-5137.

During the trial period, the ACP will select up to 4 booked vessels per day, and no more than 2 vessels per direction. If the number of requests exceeds the number of available slots per direction, the assignment of those 2 slots will be determined based on the order in which the requests to participate in the trial period were received.

The selection of the vessels to participate in the trials will be made in the following order:

- Vessels of 274.32 m (900 feet) LOA or more and with beam greater or equal to 30.48 m (100 feet)
- Vessels of less than 274.32 m (900 feet) LOA with beams greater or equal to 30.48 m (100 feet)
- Other *supers* of less than 30.48 m (100 feet) in beam.

For this initiative to be successful, the vessels' ETA must be as accurate as possible. Selected vessels will be notified, via email to the address indicated in the request form, approximately 96 hours prior to their scheduled transit, of their required arrival time (ETA) and their tentative transit time. The vessel will then be tracked via AIS in order to monitor its progress towards fulfilling the ETA submitted. The ACP may vary the scheduled transit time due to changes in resource availability, operational requirements, or other unforeseeable circumstances. Changes to the scheduled transit time will be informed to the participating vessels immediately by email. If the new required arrival time is earlier than the one previously provided, and the vessel informs the ACP that they cannot comply with this new time, the ACP will make the necessary adjustments to the schedule to avoid adversely affecting the vessel.

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In order to maintain their transit reservation slot, vessels shall arrive at the sea buoy before or by the indicated time. If the transit is cancelled by the ACP due to late arrival, or if the vessel arrives on time but cannot transit due to noncompliance with the Regulations on Navigation in Panama Canal Waters, or if, by decision of the master, operator, or representative, the vessel does not initiate its transit as scheduled, the reservation will be cancelled by the ACP and the vessel will be assessed a fee equivalent to the reservation fee. In such cases, the vessel will be rescheduled for regular transit in the order established by the ACP.

During the trial period, the *just-in-time* service will be offered at no additional cost to the vessel.

Information regarding transit requirements for the participating vessels will be reviewed prior to the vessel's arrival through a pre-arrival document inspection process conducted by the ACP's admeasurement office. Deviations or non-compliance with the transit requirements will be immediately communicated to the agents by the ACP in order to determine the conditions under which the vessel may be allowed to transit. Failure to comply with ACP requirements or providing incorrect or incomplete information may result in the cancellation of the vessel's reserved transit slot and the vessel will be penalized by way of forfeiture of the prescribed booking fee. The new pre-arrival document inspection process does not exempt the vessel from physical inspection upon arrival.

The ACP will not be liable for any damage or prejudice which may arise from the client's participation in the Just-in-Time Service Trials operational tests. This exception does not refer to damages resulting from navigation in the Panama Canal in accordance with the Panama Canal Authority Organic Law and its regulations.

Your comments and suggestions regarding this service are highly appreciated and may be submitted via e-mail to JITtrials@pancanal.com.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

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