

**AUTORIDAD DEL CANAL DE PANAMÁ  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENCY FOR OPERATIONS**

**ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-13-2014**

June 2, 2014

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

**SUBJECT:** 2014 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 July 7-11, 2014. 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 vessels, such as canal port captains, pilots, transit vessel inspectors, chemists and emergency response personnel, admeasurers, deckhands, as well as shipping agents.

As in the past, the ACP will continue promoting preventive measures to be taken in order to avoid the tripping hazard created by the retrieving line attached to the pilot ladder, as well as the excess portion of the pilot ladders, which is very often laid out on deck. The ACP suggests a box-like structure 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 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 attached inspection checklist. Vessels’ Masters will be provided with the results of the inspection. Those vessels deserving special recognition for excellence will be presented with plaques that will be delivered immediately after the inspection. Vessels with boarding facilities determined to be below accepted standards will have to correct the deficiencies prior to transit.

This document is cancelled automatically for record purposes on July 30, 2014.

**ORIGINAL SIGNED**

Esteban G. Sáenz  
Executive Vice President for Operations

Attachment