



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

3654-A (OPXI)  
V. 4-2-2015

**ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-56-2016**

October 24, 2016

**TO** : All Shipping Agents, Owners, and Operators  
**SUBJECT:** **Requirements for Panamax Vessels when Transiting the Neopanamax Locks**

Due to recent inquiries regarding the scheduling of Panamax vessels through the Neopanamax locks, the following clarification is provided.

The neopanamax locks will be used primarily for the transit of Neopanamax and Panamax *plus* vessels (Panamax vessels with TFW draft exceeding the maximum allowable draft for the Panamax locks). However, Panamax vessels may be scheduled for transit through the Neopanamax locks during periods of high vessel backlog, scheduled lane outages, or due to unforeseeable circumstances that may arise during transit operations.

Transit requirements for Panamax vessels transiting through the Neopanamax locks remain the same as for transits through the Panamax locks and pre-approval is not required in order to transit as a Panamax vessel. Nevertheless, requirements to transit as a Panamax *plus* vessel, remain, as established in Notice to Shipping N-1-2016, and pre-approval is required.

Scheduling of Panamax vessels through the Neopanamax locks is at the discretion of the Panama Canal Authority, depending on operational factors. Since Panamax vessels may be scheduled to transit the Neopanamax locks without prior notification, masters shall ensure their vessels comply with published transit requirements for Panamax locks in order to avoid unnecessary delays.

**ORIGINAL SIGNED**

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