

**AUTORIDAD DEL CANAL DE PANAMÁ**  
VICE PRESIDENCY FOR TRANSIT BUSINESS**ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-10-2020**

March 20, 2020

**TO** : All Shipping Agents, Owners, and Operators**SUBJECT:** Modifications and Additional Clarifications Related to the Establishment of Guarantees for Transit Reservation and Transit Itinerary Creation Fees

The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) announces modifications and clarifications to Advisories to Shipping A-02-2020, A-03-2020, and A-06-2020 regarding guarantees and other relevant issues. These modifications will be implemented on the following dates:

**Effective April 16, 2020****Modification to the Time Allowance for Placement of Guarantees for Booking and the Transit Itinerary Creation Fees:**

1. The ACP will allow 96 hours for the placement of the guarantee required for the Transit Itinerary Creation Fee, provided that the visit is created with more than 96 hours from the vessel's ETA. If the visit with transit itinerary is created with less than 96 hours, as required by regulations, the vessel will only have 24 hours for the placement of the guarantee.
2. For booking slots that are awarded up to 7 days prior to the booked date, the guarantee shall be received no later than 96 hours after confirmation of the slot by the ACP. Booking requests awarded during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Booking Period but with less than 7 days from the vessel's ETA, require that the guarantee be received by the ACP no later than 48 hours after the booking request has been accepted.
3. Changes in booking dates for vessels that were booked prior to February 15, 2020, require the establishment of a guarantee for the new date. This guarantee shall be received by the ACP within the required 96 hours. Changes in booking dates received during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Booking period with less than 7 days from the vessel's ETA, require that the guarantee be received by the ACP no later than 48 hours after the booking request has been accepted, as mentioned in the previous paragraph.
4. Substitution of a booked vessel with a non-booked vessel requires the placement of a Transit Itinerary Creation Fee guarantee and a booking guarantee for the substituting vessel no later than 96 hours after the booking request has been accepted. Substitutions during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Booking Period with less than 7 days from the vessel's ETA, will require the placement of the guarantee for the substituting vessel in order for the substitution to be processed by the ACP. Once the booking slot is reassigned to the substituting vessel, the Transit Itinerary Creation Fee for the substituted vessel will be reimbursed within approximately 10 days. Likewise, the booking guarantee will also be reimbursed within approximately 10 days after deducting any penalties that may apply.

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### **Handling of Transit Itineraries that do not comply with the 96 hours requirement for the establishment of the Guarantee:**

Vessels with local and transit itineraries in the same visit that fail to place the guarantee for the transit itinerary within the required time, will be handled in the following manner:

1. If the vessel has not arrived at Panama Canal waters, the entire visit will be cancelled.
2. If the vessel has arrived at Panama Canal waters, the transit itinerary of the visit will be cancelled, and the local itinerary of the visit will be adjusted accordingly.

### **Effective March 21, 2020**

### **Use of the Transit Itinerary Creation Fee Guarantee as part of the Tolls Guarantee:**

The guarantee for the Transit Itinerary Creation Fee cannot be used as part of the Tolls guarantee; each guarantee is handled independently. The vessel is required to place a guarantee for tolls and other related services in addition to the Transit Itinerary Creation Fee guarantee. The Transit Itinerary Creation Fee guarantee will be deducted from the vessel's tolls invoice once the vessel has transited. If the vessel cancels the transit itinerary, this fee will not be reimbursed.

Errors in processing transit itineraries, such as selecting the wrong port of arrival or an incorrect vessel, will require the cancellation of the incorrect visit and the creation of a new transit itinerary and the placement of the corresponding guarantee. The Transit Itinerary Creation Fee for the cancelled visit will not be reimbursed.

### **Changes of Customer Codes:**

An important factor in awarding booking slots during the tiebreaker competitions is the vessel's customer code. As stated in Notice to Shipping N-7-2020, the Customer Code provided by the vessel's agent must belong to the company responsible for each transit within that visit, be it the vessel's owner, the charterer, or the operator. In this regard, and in order to maintain the integrity of the booking system, effective immediately, vessels will not be allowed to change customer codes once the visit has been created.

### **Gatun Water Level Indicator:**

Information related to the Gatun Lake level projections for the calculation of the Fresh Water Fee, will also be available for download in a CSV table format. Additionally, the website will include the current and projected transit draft allowances, as well as the current backlog with the approximate waiting time, in days, per direction. This information is available at the following link: <http://www.pan Canal.com/eng/h2o/index.html>

Further inquiries on the subject matter shall be directed to [customerrelations@pan Canal.com](mailto:customerrelations@pan Canal.com).

### **ORIGINAL SIGNED**

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