



May 20, 2002

MR'S ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-12-2002

TO : ALL STEAMSHIP AGENTS, OWNERS, AND OPERATORS

SUBJECT: 2002 SAFE BOARDING WEEK

1. The Panama Canal Authority considers proper boarding facilities to be an absolute necessity to ensure the safety of our operating personnel and others using these facilities in the Panama Canal. To promote awareness and compliance with the Canal requirements by transiting vessels, a "Safe Boarding Week" will be held June 24 through June 28, 2002. During this period, the Panama Canal Authority will sponsor organized efforts to emphasize and encourage safe boarding and debarkation of all vessels arriving at the Panama Canal.
2. "Safe Boarding Week" will involve teams representing groups who board vessels frequently, such as Canal Port Captains, Pilots, Transiting Vessel Inspection Program personnel, Chemists and Emergency Response personnel, Admeasurers and Deckhands. Vessels in both Cristobal and Balboa Anchorages will be boarded and inspected by these teams, utilizing a standardized Inspection Checklist (attached). Each ship's master will be provided the results of this inspection. Vessels warranting special recognition of excellence will be presented certificates that will be forwarded through their local agents to their principals. Any vessel with boarding facilities determined to be below standard, will be expected to correct the deficiencies prior to their Canal transit.
3. Local agents or their representatives who desire to participate may contact the Admeasurement Unit at 272-4567.
4. This document is cancelled automatically for records purposes on June 28, 2002.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Jorge L. Quijano
Maritime Operations Director