

June 30, 2004

MR'S ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-35-2004

TO : All Steamship Agents, Owners, and Operators

SUBJECT: Update on the Implementation of the Panama Canal Electronic Data Collection System (EDCS)

1. Effective July 1, 2004, all information required for transiting the Panama Canal must be submitted utilizing the Electronic Data Collection System – EDCS (Web or CIG), at least 96 hours prior to arrival at Panama Canal waters. Therefore, this requirement will effectively apply to all vessels planning to arrive at Canal waters after 2400 hours July 4, 2004. Subsequent updates to this information are permitted up to 12 hours prior to arrival; however, these changes will be subject to security verification.
2. Following is a list of the documentation required to be submitted through EDCS:
 - a. ETA/Ship Due (Form 4376)
 - b. Cargo Declaration of Vessel passing through the Canal (Form 4363)
 - c. Passenger List (Form 20)
 - d. Crew List for Incoming Vessels (Form 1509)
3. Vessels with a voyage time of less than 96 hours from their last port of call prior to entering Canal waters will, nevertheless, be required to provide preliminary information not less than 96 hours in advance of arrival. However, such vessels will be required to provide their final information to ACP immediately upon departure from their last port of call.
4. Vessels not able to comply with the above requirements, or that arrive at Canal waters without providing proper notification, as required, shall be considered in violation of Panama Canal Regulations and, as such, will be subject to control and compliance measures. Non-compliance may consist of the submittal of incorrect, false, incomplete or late information. These measures may include the assignment of additional resources, at the vessel's expense, or a more detailed inspection, which may result in delays or denial of transit.
5. Non-compliant vessels may also be subject to fines and/or other additional control and compliance measures, as deemed appropriate by the ACP. Fines for non-compliance are independent of charges that may be assessed for the use of any additional resources assigned due to safety or security concerns.



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6. With the implementation of the EDCS system, vessels will no longer be required to provide ACP Boarding Officers with hard copies of Cargo Declarations, Passenger Lists, and Crew Lists. However, upon arrival, vessels will still be required to provide ACP Boarding Officers with a hard copy of the Ship's Information and Quarantine Declaration – SIQD (Form 4398) completely filled out, with the exception of the information on dangerous cargo, which is required to be forwarded electronically in advance through the EDCS system. The SIQD form is available at www.pancanal.com/eng/maritime/forms.html.

7. Following is a list of points of contact for EDCS support:

- a. International Call Center..... Tel. + 65 6887-7288
- b. Local Call Center..... Tel. (507) 272-2222
- c. Customer Support..... EDCS_support@pancanal.com
- d. Registration and Accreditation..... EDCS_registration@pancanal.com
- e. Customer Relations Customerrelations@pancanal.com
- f. General Information EDCS_info@pancanal.com

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Jorge L. Quijano
Maritime Operations Director