

November 24, 2004

**MR'S ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-55-2004**

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

**SUBJECT: Changes to the Panama Canal Transit Reservation (Booking) System**

Effective December 1, 2004, the Panama Canal Transit Reservation (Booking) System Rules will be as follows, with the changes identified in **bold**:

1. The 21 authorized reserved transit slots available per day will be allocated among booking the periods as set forth in the following table:

Vessel	1 <sup>st</sup> Period Booking	2 <sup>nd</sup> Period Booking	3 <sup>rd</sup> Period Booking
<i>Supers</i> – 91ft. (27.74m) in beam and over	5	3	<b>5</b>
<i>Regulars</i> – under 91ft (27.74m) in beam	2	2	<b>4</b>
Total of 21	7	5	<b>9</b>

*Same Direction Transits/Supers:*

- a. During normal conditions, no more than **eight supers** may be booked for transit in the southbound direction and of these, no more than six with “full daylight-hour restrictions”. Similarly, no more than **seven supers** may be booked for transit in the northbound direction and of these, no more than five with “full daylight-hour restrictions”. The maximum number of “full daylight-hour restricted vessels” shall not exceed 8.
- b. During Condition 2, no more than five supers may be booked for transit in the same direction and of these, no more than three with “full daylight-hour restrictions”.
- c. During Condition 3, no more than four vessels may be booked for transit in the same direction and of these, no more than three with “full daylight-hour restrictions”.

*Same Direction Transits/Regular Vessels:*

- a. During normal conditions, no more than four regular vessels may be booked for transit in the same direction. Of the eight slots available, no more than two shall be allocated to regular vessels transiting under restrictions (for example, clear-Cut, daylight hours or daylight hours in the Cut).
- b. During Condition 2, no more than **four** regular vessels may be booked for transit in the same direction. Of the seven slots available, no more than one may be allocated to a regular vessel transiting under restrictions (for example, clear-Cut, daylight hours or daylight hours in the Cut).



c. During Condition 3 no more than two regular vessels may be booked for transit in the same direction and, of the four regular slots available, no more than one may be allocated to a regular vessel transiting under restrictions (for example: clear-Cut, daylight hours or daylight hours in the Cut).

Exceptions to these limits may be only be made with the express authorization of the Marine Director or his designee, and then only in such case that it be necessary to guarantee operational efficiency.

2. Slots cancelled in the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> booking periods will become available in the same period only if all the slots available in that period were not allocated. Otherwise, these slots will be offered in the booking period(s) that follow.

3. During normal conditions, if there are slots remaining for *supers* after the competition of the 3<sup>rd</sup> booking period, **one** of the remaining slots may be offered to regular vessels **transiting without restrictions** that failed to secure a slot, in order of rejection.

4. Only non-daylight restricted booked vessels may request the option of daylight transits for a fee. The advance notice for guaranteed daylight transits is hereby changed from 120 to **60** days:

- a. \$30,000.00 per daylight transit when requested 60 or more days in advance of the transit date.
- b. \$20,000.00 per daylight transit when requested less than 60 days in advance of the transit date. Such request will be confirmed 48 hours prior to the transit date.

The \$30,000 surcharge guarantees a daylight transit, once accepted by the ACP at least 60 days in advance.

c. The cancellation of a guaranteed daylight transit request will incur a charge, in accordance with the following table:

<b>Notice Period</b> (In advance of required arrival time)	<b>Cancellation Fee</b> (Based on the vessel's booking fee)
60 or more days.....	No cancellation charge
31 to 59 days.....	10% of the booking fee
22 to 30 days.....	40% of the booking fee
4 to 21 days.....	60% of the booking fee
3 days to 36 hours.....	80% of the booking fee
Less than 36 hours.....	100% of the booking fee

**ORIGINAL SIGNED**

Jorge L. Quijano  
 Maritime Operations Director