

November 24, 2006

**MR'S ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-36-2006**

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

**SUBJECT: Modification to the Procedures for Panama Canal Shipboard Oil Pollution  
Emergency Plans (PCSOPEP)**

Almost two years have elapsed since the implementation of the PCSOPEP program. Based on the experience gained so far and in order to provide the best possible service to the Maritime Community, the following measures will be implemented:

1. PCSOPEP Plans and their corresponding Notice of Acknowledgement (NOA) that expire between 1 January 2007 and 31 March 2007 will be valid through 31 March 2007.
2. PCSOPEP Plans and their corresponding Notice of Acknowledgement (NOA) issued on or after 1 January 2007 will be valid for four years or until invalidated by any condition described in Panama Canal Notice to Shipping No. N-12-2006 (Section 1.4).
3. As of 1 January 2007, all PCSOPEP submissions will be subject to the following requirements:
  - a. Plans will only be accepted via electronic mail at [pcsopep@pancanal.com](mailto:pcsopep@pancanal.com) in Portable Document Format (\*.pdf);
  - b. Only one plan shall be submitted per electronic mail;
  - c. The subject line of the electronic mail shall indicate the name and ACP Ship Identification Number (SIN) of the vessel.
4. PCSOPEP submissions that fail to comply with the above-mentioned requirements will be rejected.
5. The ACP will only verify PCSOPEPs and provide feedback to vessels within 10 days of their Estimated Time of Arrival (ETA) to Panama Canal waters. The aforementioned ETA refers to the registered time in the Enhanced Vessel Traffic Management System (EVTMS) of the ACP. Requests for PCSOPEP information outside this timeframe will not be acknowledged.

6. Determination of corresponding tier will be made by adding the oil carrying capacity (in metric tons) of fuel, cargo and slop tanks, among others, used to transport MARPOL 73/78 Annex I products.
7. For the purpose of converting volume in cubic meters (m<sup>3</sup>) to metric tons, the following formula shall be utilized:

|  |
|--|
| <b>Metric Ton = 0.9442 x m<sup>3</sup></b> |
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8. All military and auxiliary vessels, regardless of their fuel or oil carrying capacity, must submit a PCSOPEP Document of Compliance by electronic mail to [pcsopep@pancanal.com](mailto:pcsopep@pancanal.com), in Portable Document Format (\*.pdf). The subject line of the electronic mail shall indicate the name and ACP Ship Identification Number (SIN) of the vessel. Enclosed please find a sample for a PCSOPEP Document of Compliance for military and auxiliary vessels.
9. Failure by any vessel to submit a PCSOPEP Document of Compliance or a PCSOPEP plan will be considered non compliance with Maritime Regulations for the Operation of the Panama Canal and may result in sanctions and/or denial of transit.

**ORIGINAL SIGNED**

Enrique Marquez  
Acting Maritime Operations Director

Enclosure

**PANAMA CANAL SHIPBOARD OIL POLLUTION EMERGENCY PLAN (PCSOPEP)**

**DOCUMENT OF COMPLIANCE BY \_\_\_\_\_ WARSHIPS AND AUXILIARIES**  
country

The Department of Defense/Navy of \_\_\_\_\_ has carefully examined the preparedness strategy for the Panama Canal waters and with full knowledge and understanding of the same is able to certify that the vessel below has an Oil Spill Contingency Program that meets or exceeds Panama Canal Authority's Oil Pollution Emergency Plan preparedness strategy for Panama Canal waters. The Commanding Officer/Master below hereby certifies that all necessary crewmembers are properly trained in oil spill response measures, which comply or exceed Panama Canal Authority Oil Pollution Emergency Plan preparedness strategy for Panama Canal waters. The Commanding Officer/Master also certifies the vessel below falls under the indicated oil carrying capacity and hull classification for the imposition of fees.

Due to the unique nature of warships and auxiliaries, this certificate in accordance with Article III (d) and (e) of the Treaty Concerning the Permanent Neutrality and Operation of the Panama Canal is filed in lieu of PCSOPEP plan submission.

It is further certified in accordance with Article III, 1, (d) of the Treaty Concerning the Permanent Neutrality and Operation of the Panama Canal, that the \_\_\_\_\_ will observe its obligations under international law to pay for damages resulting from the act or omission of the named vessel when passing through the Canal.

***Check corresponding Tier and surcharge, if applicable***

| Type of Vessel   | Fees per Transit | Check applicable         |
|--|------------------|--------------------------|
| Vessels with an oil carrying capacity of less than 400 MT. The PCSOPEP program DOES NOT apply. | None             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Vessels with an oil carrying capacity of 400 MT up to 1,000 MT <b>(TIER S)</b>                 | \$200.00         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Vessels with an oil carrying capacity of more than 1,000 MT up to 7,000 MT <b>(TIER 1)</b>     | \$350.00         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Vessels with an oil carrying capacity of more than 7,000 MT up to 15,000 MT <b>(TIER 2)</b>    | \$600.00         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Vessels with an oil carrying capacity of more than 15,000 MT <b>(TIER 3)</b>                   | \$750.00         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Surcharge for tankers and barges carrying oil as cargo and having single side or single bottom | 25%              | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Surcharge for tankers and barges carrying oil as cargo and having single hull                  | 50%              | <input type="checkbox"/> |

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Name of Ship**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**SIN**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of Commanding Officer/Master**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

The \_\_\_\_\_ authorized representative to be contacted in the event of an oil spill is the \_\_\_\_\_  
country  
\_\_\_\_\_. He may be contacted via the \_\_\_\_\_ in Panama  
Official's title Embassy/consulate/other  
at phone: +(507) \_\_\_\_\_.