



AUTORIDAD DEL CANAL DE PANAMÁ
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENCY FOR OPERATIONS

3654-A (OPXI)
V. 4-2-2015

ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-18-2015

June 30, 2015

TO : All Shipping Agents, Owners, and Operators

SUBJECT: Bunkering in the Atlantic Outer Anchorage

In the past, the Panama Canal has only approved bunkering operations in the Atlantic Inner Anchorage, where vessels are protected by the Atlantic Breakwater from rough sea conditions characteristic of the Atlantic Outer Anchorage. However, while inadequate sea conditions for bunkering prevail for a great part of the year, there are still periods where sea conditions may allow for safe bunkering operations in the Atlantic Outer Anchorage.

Based on the increased demand for bunkering operations that often saturate the Inner Anchorage of Cristobal, bunkering operations will be permitted in the Atlantic Outer Anchorage, on a case-by-case basis, when sea conditions allow. The temporary approval of bunkering operations in the Atlantic Outer Anchorage will be evaluated when the requesting parties comply with the following requirements:

- Bunker barges intending to provide bunkering services in the Atlantic Outer Anchorage shall notify the Canal Port Captain office in order to arrange an inspection by the Canal Maritime Safety office.
- Bunker barges shall have properly functioning machinery and equipment on board, be equipped with an adequate fendering system and sufficient booms on board for deployment and containment of any pollution accident, as well as trained personnel to safely perform bunker operations.
- Bunker barges shall have adequate firefighting equipment in full working condition.
- Bunker barges are subject to unannounced inspections in order to corroborate compliance with operational requirements and, if found not in compliance, will be subject to sanctions and their authorization to conduct bunker activities will be revoked.
- Requests for bunker operations shall be made in writing by both bunker barge and bunkering vessel, and both parties must accept and comply with the requirements set forth in this document.
- Both parties are responsible to determine if sea conditions are safe to perform bunkering operations, taking into consideration weather and sea conditions, as well as traffic density in the area. Should the sea or weather conditions deteriorate beyond acceptable limits, bunkering operations will be aborted.
- All events and incidents while performing bunkering shall be promptly reported to Cristobal Signal Station on Channel 12 VHF.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Esteban G. Sáenz
Executive Vice President for Operations