



**AUTORIDAD DEL CANAL DE PANAMÁ**  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENCY FOR OPERATIONS

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**ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-19-2016**

April 12, 2016

**TO** : All Shipping Agents, Owners, and Operators  
**SUBJECT:** Modifications to the Reservation System to Add New Booking Slots for Neopanamax Vessels

With the recent announcement of June 26, 2016 as the inauguration date for the expanded locks with commercial operations beginning the following day, the Panama Canal Authority (ACP) will be accepting transit reservations for Neopanamax vessels effective June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

The following rules and procedures will apply for Neopanamax vessels reserving booking slots in the new locks:

1. **Vessel Classification.** Vessels are classified as Neopanamax if their dimensions are over 966 feet (294.44 meters) in length or over 107 feet (32.62 meters) in beam.
2. **Slot Allocation.** A maximum of four (4) booking slots will be offered per day during the first period. Of these, no more than two (2) slots will be available per direction, and a maximum of one (1) with “*daylight-restriction*” per direction. These slots will be allocated using the current booking rules, based on customer ranking and other tie-breaker criteria during the competition period, and on a *first-come, first-served* basis after the competition has closed. Of the four (4) slots offered per day, only one (1) slot may be allocated to LNG vessels, and only one (1) slot for vessels performing turnaround transits.
3. **Passenger Vessels.** Neopanamax passenger vessels will be allowed to request booking slots for transit dates after June 26, **2017**. Similar to the current booking system, one (1) slot will be offered exclusively to passenger vessels during the special booking period, which extends from 547 days to 366 days prior to the requested transit date. No distinction will be made between commercial passenger vessels and other vessels when assigning any remaining booking slots in the other booking periods.
4. **Required Arrival Times.** Neopanamax booked vessels will be required to arrive by 2200 hours the day prior to their booked date. Neopanamax LNG vessels will be required to arrive by 0330 hours on their booked date. Neopanamax passenger vessels are exempt from this requirement, provided that they arrive with enough time to maintain their schedule.
5. **Substitutions and Swaps.** Substitutions and swaps will be allowed under the same rules and conditions that currently apply to *supers* and *regulars*.

April 12, 2016

**Subject: Modifications to the Reservation System to Add New Booking Slots for Neopanamax Vessels**

6. **Penalties due to Late Arrival.** The applicable fee for late arrivals of Neopanamax vessels with the required 2200 hours arrival time will be determined by the vessel's actual arrival time, in accordance with the following table:

<b>ARRIVAL</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL FEE</b>
2201 hours to 2300 hours	25%
2301 hours to 2400 hours	50%
0001 hours to 0100 hours	75%
After 0100 hours	100%

For vessels with the required 0330 hours arrival time, the applicable fee due to late arrival will be based on the following table:

<b>ARRIVAL</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL FEE</b>
0331 hours to 0400 hours	25%
0401 hours to 0430 hours	50%
0431 hours to 0500 hours	75%
After 0501 hours	100%

7. **Cancellation fees.** Cancellation fees for Neopanamax vessels including LNG carriers will be based on their required arrival time, as per the following table:

<b>BOOKING CANCELLATION TABLE</b>	
<b>Notice Period</b> (In advance of required arrival time)	<b>Cancellation Fee</b> (the greater of)
Over 365 days	10% of booking fee or \$500
365 days to over 180 days	20% of booking fee or \$600
180 days to over 90 days	40% of booking fee or \$900
90 days to over 30 days	50% of booking fee or \$1,100
30 days to over 3 days	60% of booking fee or \$1,300
72 hours to 36 hours	80% of booking fee or \$1,600
Less than 36 hours	100% of booking fee

The fees applicable to booking cancellations for neopanamax passenger vessels will be based on an arrival time of 0200 hours.

April 12, 2016

Subject: **Modifications to the Reservation System to Add New Booking Slots for Neopanamax Vessels**

8. **In Transit Times (ITT) for Neopanamax Vessels.** The ITT (In-Transit Time) applicable to booked Neopanamax vessels will be 18 hours or less.

During this initial phase, applications for reserved transits for Neopanamax vessels will be received in the following manner:

- Beginning at 0900 hours April 18, 2016, for transit dates between June 27, 2016 and September 30, 2016.
- Beginning at 0900 hours April 22, 2016, for transit dates between October 1, 2016 and December 31, 2016.
- Beginning at 0900 hours April 25, 2016, for transit dates after December 31, 2016 and up to 365 days from the date of the request.

At this time booking slots to transit through the new locks for Panamax vessels with drafts greater than 39.5 feet TFW (also known as *Panamax plus vessels*) are unavailable. Similarly, slots for other booking periods, **Just-In-Time** transits, and the **auctioned slot** for Neopanamax vessels are also unavailable at this time.

For information regarding booking fees for Neopanamax vessels, please refer to Advisory to Shipping A-9-2016.

**ORIGINAL SIGNED**

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