

## Advisory to Shipping No. A-05-2023

February 17, 2023

**TO :** All Shipping Agents, Owners, and Operators  
**SUBJECT:** Modifications to the Booking Periods and Slot Distribution for Neopanamax Vessels

The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) hereby announces changes to the duration and slot distribution of the different booking periods for the Neopanamax locks. Effective March 1, 2023, the following changes will be in effect:

### 1. Duration of the Booking Periods.

- a. Special Passenger Period: from **730** to **366** days prior to booking date.
- b. Booking Period 1 will extend from **365** days to **31** days prior to booking date.
- c. Booking Period 1.a will extend from **30** days to **15** days prior to booking date.
- d. Booking Period 2 will extend from **14** to **4** days prior to booking date.
- e. Booking Period 3 will extend from **3** to **2** days prior to booking date.

### 2. Booking Slot distribution and allocation procedure.

- a. **Special Period for passenger vessels:** during this period, **one slot** will continue to be offered to passenger vessels. However, if the slot is not awarded at the end of the period, the slot will be carried over to Booking Period **1.a**.
- b. **Booking Period 1:** during this period, **only one** slot will be offered. Only full container and passenger vessels will be allowed to participate in this period. During the tiebreaker competition, the slots will be awarded based on customer ranking.
- c. **Booking Period 1.a:** during this period, **two slots** will be made available in addition to the slot carried over from the special passenger vessel period (when available). Only full container, LNG, and LPG vessels will be allowed to participate during this period. When assigning the first slot during the tiebreaker competition, priority will be given to full container vessels, followed by LNG vessels, and LPG vessels. When assigning the second slot, priority will be given to LNG vessels, followed by LPG vessels, and finally full container vessels. The third slot (when carried over from the special passenger vessel period) will be awarded based on customer ranking. Slots not awarded during the tiebreaker competition will be available to full container, LNG, and LPG vessels on a "first-come, first-served" basis. A maximum of two slots may be allocated to LNG vessels (two northbound slots or one northbound and one southbound).
- d. **Booking Period 2:** at the opening of this period, **three slots** will be made available to all vessels, regardless of vessel type. When assigning these slots (including the conditioned slot) during the tiebreaker competition, priority will be given to full container vessels, followed by LNG vessels (provided that no more than two LNG vessels have already been awarded in previous period) and finally, based on customer ranking. The award process for the conditioned slot remains unchanged.

**An additional slot** will be auctioned on a daily basis to vessels transiting in the southbound direction, seven (7) days prior to the transit booking date, replacing the Tuesday and Wednesday auctions currently offered. If there are no interested vessels, the slot will become available to any interested neopanamax vessel.

OP, February 17, 2023

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- e. **Booking Period 3:** slots that are carried over from booking period 2 will be offered during this period, on a “first-come, first-served” basis.

The maximum number of slots per direction and restriction remain unchanged.

The changes are summarized in the following table:

	<b>SPECIAL PERIOD (730 TO 366 DAYS)</b>	<b>PERIOD 1 (365 TO 31 DAYS)</b>	<b>PERIOD 1.A (30 TO 15 DAYS)</b>	<b>PERIOD 2 (14 TO 4 DAYS)</b>	<b>PERIOD 3 (3 TO 2 DAYS)</b>
<b>Number of slots</b>	1*	1	2 (+1*)	4**	-
<b>Slot allocation</b>	Passenger vessels only	Full container and passenger vessels only, based on ranking.	Full containers, passenger vessels, LNG and LPG only.  1 <sup>st</sup> slot: first priority to Full containers; followed by LNG, then LPG  2 <sup>nd</sup> slot: first priority to LNG; followed by LPG, then full containers.  3 <sup>rd</sup> slot (if carried over): based on ranking	Priority to Full containers; then LNG; then by ranking  One (1) slot offered daily through auction, 7 days prior to transit date, in the southbound direction only	Unused slots from previous periods awarded on a first-come, first-served basis

\*Unused slots from the special passenger period will be carried over to Period 1.a.

\*\*includes the conditioned slot and the auctioned slot

Questions or comments may be directed to [customerservice@pancanal.com](mailto:customerservice@pancanal.com)

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