



Panama Canal Authority  
Vice Presidency for Operations

## Advisory To Shipping No. A-35-2023

July 25, 2023

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

**SUBJECT:** Additional Measures to Mitigate the Extended Dry Season and Reduction in Precipitation in the Canal Watershed

Despite the arrival of the rainy season in the Isthmus of Panama and the continuous water saving measures that the Panama Canal Authority (ACP) has implemented in the past months to mitigate the adverse effects of the extended dry season in the Canal watershed, the ACP finds it necessary to implement additional measures to reduce the possibility of additional draft restrictions in the upcoming weeks.

Therefore, effective **July 30, 2023**, and until further notice, the daily transit capacity will be adjusted to an average of 32 vessels per day, normally distributed among the Panamax and Neopanamax locks in the following manner: 10 vessels in the Neopanamax locks and 22 vessels in the Panamax locks. The daily transit capacity may be further adjusted as deemed necessary, depending on the level of Gatun Lake, weather forecasts, and vessel mix.

In addition, during the 2nd and 3rd Booking Period competition for the Panamax locks, full container vessels shall have priority in the assignment of slots over other vessel types. Any remaining slots will be assigned based on customer ranking. For Booking Period 3, the modification will be in effect beginning **Tuesday, August 1, 2023**, and for Booking Period 2, the modification will be in effect beginning **Saturday, August 19, 2023**. Applications for reserved slots under this new allocation procedure will be received beginning at **0900 hours Saturday, July 29, 2023**.

It is important to note that a reduction in the number of daily transits for an extended period will invariably increase the waiting time for some vessels, particularly those who do not obtain a reservation. In that regard, we strongly encourage all customers to make use of our Transit Reservation System to reduce the possibility of extensive delays.

The ACP may implement additional measures and establish additional procedures, commensurate with the safe and efficient operation of the Canal.

### ORIGINAL SIGNED

Boris Moreno Vásquez  
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