



FREQUENTLY ASK QUESTIONS FOR ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-32-2022

Jul 3, 2023

This document intends to provide our clients with a better understanding of Advisory to Shipping No. A-32-2022 for New Positioning System Requirements for Transiting NeoPanamax Vessels.

Note:

Effective October 1, 2023, all **vessels with a beam of 109 feet (33.22 meters) or more** transiting the Panama Canal will be required to have a fixed (non-portable) piloting unit with Real Time Kinematics (RTK).

Q. Do you have single manufacturers for approved equipment?

We are currently working with several suppliers willing to submit their equipment for evaluation. For the updated list of approved equipment visit <https://pancanal.com/en/maritime-services/non-portable-piloting-unit/>

Q. As per advisory, the installation of the equipment is compulsory, what happens if we do not have the equipment installed by October 1, 2023?

Once this new requirement is effective, the compliance of the piloting unit will become part of the vessel's arrival inspection. If requirements are not met, a portable piloting unit with Real Time Kinematics (PPU-RTK) will be temporarily installed in the vessel, at an additional cost.

Q. What is the cost of the temporary portable unit supplied by Panama Canal while transiting?

The cost for a temporary portable piloting unit supplied by the Panama Canal as well as all other possible costs will be announced prior to October 1, 2023.

Q. Who will perform the installation and uninstallation of the rental of PPU-RTK?

Upon arrival it must be reported that the vessel does not have the required RTK system installed. The Panama Canal Boarding Officer will proceed with the installation, during inspection.

Q. Will be possible to book this equipment in advance?

No, you must report that the vessel does not have the required PPU-RTK system installed. The boarding officer will proceed with the installation.

Q. Why do we need this type of equipment PPU-RTK?

The requirement of a "fixed (non-portable) piloting unit with Real Time Kinematics (RTK)" is to avoid issues we have encountered with portable units, and the fact that non-portable units will be registered in our database of vessels to facilitate the offset configuration of the vessel.

Julv3, 2023

Subject: Frequently Ask Questions for Advisory to Shipping No. A-32-2022

Q. How much time is required for the installation of the PPU-RTK?

During the boarding inspection the installation will be carried out. Time will depend on the inspection tasks of the vessel that the boarding officer will do.

Q. Is PPU-RTK replacing the AIS based system and PPU (Pilot portable units)?

The non-portable piloting unit is replacing the PPU-RTK. The vessel will be responsible for procuring, installing, configuring, and maintaining the fixed piloting unit (non-portable piloting unit) in proper condition.

Q. Is the AIS plug and receptacle (for pilot's laptop computer at No. 1 conning position on the bridge) necessary?

The AIS pilot plug at conning position 1 is still required.

Q. Is RTK antenna power receptacle (NEMA 5-15R) for PPU at conning position 1 still necessary?

Yes, the NEMA 5-15R (USA standard 120V, AC, 3-prong power receptacle) at conning position 1 is still required.

Q. Is the power plug for using the PPU-RTK outside the wheelhouse necessary?

Effective October 1, 2023, the power plug for using the PPU-RTK outside the wheelhouse will not be required.

Q. Is it possible for a company to share an approved unit between vessels? In other words, could a company purchase several units, keep them in Panama, and install the unit on a vessel for the transit and then uninstall it for use on another vessel in its fleet?

No, each equipment must have a unique vendor ID and a unique equipment ID to identify the vessel for the configuration of the Panama Canal Pilot vessel information (antenna offsets), in other words, it will not be possible without manually adjusting the antenna offset information. This could cause errors in the information available to navigate through the Canal.

Q. Does the new requirements need to update the pilot plug for wireless data transfer instead of the traditional plug-in output?

This is not a replacement for the traditional pilot plug, it is in addition to the pilot plug. This is a new equipment.

Q. Why does the Notice to Shipping N-1-2023 not mention the new requirements in the Advisory to Shipping No. A-32-2022 regarding the new positioning system?

New positioning system requirements will be effective on October 1, 2023, and the Notice to Shipping N-1-2023 was delivered on January 1, 2023, with all the effective regulations.

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