



3654-A (OP-I)
V. 29/03/2023

Panama Canal Authority
Vice Presidency for Operations

Advisory to Shipping No. A-20-2026

June 9, 2026

TO : All Shipping Agents, Owners, and Operators
SUBJECT : Safe Boarding Week 2026

The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) considers proper boarding facilities to be an absolute necessity to ensure the safety of their personnel, as well as others using these facilities while in Canal waters. To promote awareness and compliance with Canal requirements by vessels in our waters, the ACP will hold its annual “Safe Boarding Week” from July 6-10, 2026. During this period, the ACP will emphasize and encourage safe boarding practices on all vessels arriving at the waterway.

“Safe Boarding Week” activities will involve inspections of boarding facilities by personnel who normally board vessels, such as Canal Port Captains, Pilots, Transit Vessel Inspectors, Chemists, Emergency Response personnel, Admeasurers, Deckhands, as well as ship’s agents.

Vessels at Balboa Anchorage will have their boarding facility arrangements inspected utilizing the “Safe Boarding Week 2026 Inspection Checklist”. Vessel masters will be provided with the results of the inspection and those vessels deserving special recognition for excellence will be presented with plaques following the inspection. Vessels with boarding facilities determined to be below acceptable standards must correct the deficiencies prior to transit.

For inquiries or additional information, please write to Arqueadores@pancanal.com

This document is cancelled automatically for record purposes on July 30, 2026.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Boris Moreno Vásquez
Vice President for Operations



4446-(OPT)
Rev. 6-2026

PANAMA CANAL AUTHORITY
TRANSIT OPERATIONS DIVISION
“SAFE BOARDING WEEK 2026” INSPECTION CHECKLIST
SAFE BOARDING, SAFE OPERATIONS

Ship's Name: SIN: Ship type:

Loa: Ext. Beam: Agent:

According to SOLAS and ACP regulations

	Y	N	N/A	
I. PILOT LADDER				
Officer standing by with a radio				
Suitable distance from the water				
Resting flat against hull				
Clean				
Steps from No. 1 to No. 4 made of satisfactory material				
Spreaders properly located				
Retrieving line properly located				
Steps in horizontal position				
Stanchions of adequate size, height and properly fitted				
Life ring and self-igniting lights available and ready to use				
Access area clear of obstructions or other hazards				
Bulwark ladder fitted and secured				
Ship has more than one pilot ladder complying with all requirements				
*Verify the Pilot Ladder Certificate				
II. ACCOMMODATION LADDER				
Leading aft. and resting flat against hull				
Lower platform of adequate size, in horizontal position and fitted with stanchions				
Boat spar properly fitted				
III. COMBINATION LADDER				
Pilot ladder complies with part I. above				
Accommodation ladder complies with part II. above				
Platform for accommodation ladder at proper distance from waterline				
Angle of slope for accommodation ladder less or equal to 45 degrees				

Boarding Officer: Code: Date: