

July 2, 2004

**MR'S ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-36-2004**

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

**SUBJECT: Further Update on the Implementation of the Panama Canal Electronic Data Collection System (EDCS)**

1. The purpose of this advisory is to further update the information that was published in Advisory No. A-35-2004, Update on the Implementation of the Panama Canal Electronic Data Collection System (EDCS).
2. All vessels planning to arrive at Panama Canal waters without intention to transit will be required to submit only the following forms through the EDCS system:
  - a. ETA/Ship Due
  - b. Passenger List
  - c. Crew List for Incoming Vessels
3. In addition, the following changes have been made to the EDCS system:
  - a. Providing information on the **location of containers** has been made optional;
  - b. Providing container location, whether **above or below deck**, has been made optional;
  - c. Providing information on **Total Cargo Quantity on Board** has been made optional;
  - d. Beginning July 15, the submission of **Preliminary Admeasurement Data Sheet information (ADS)** through the ETA form will be optional; however, this information is required to be included when submitting the Ship Due form.
  - e. An additional option to save a draft version without validation of the information to be submitted, will be available beginning July 15.
4. In the case of container vessels with cargo on board belonging to more than one cargo operator (**Alliance**), the operator, or the customer code being credited for the transit (principal), will be responsible for the submission of all the required information. The principal may define in the ETA/Ship Due form, through EDCS, all the members or parties with cargo on board (**Alliance member**) by inputting their corresponding customer codes. For EDCS purposes, the term **Alliance** is defined as any group of cargo owners who have an agreement to carry cargo on board the same vessel.
5. All alliance members are required to have a valid ACP customer code, registered with the EDCS system. Alliance members may also submit cargo declarations individually, and confidentially, by using the CIG module.
6. The use of the EDCS Web module will be made available for the submission and/or updating of cargo declarations by alliance members beginning August 1, 2004.

**ORIGINAL SIGNED**

Jorge L. Quijano  
Maritime Operations Director



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