



May 30, 2008

OP ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-15-2008

TO : ALL STEAMSHIP AGENTS, OWNERS, AND OPERATORS

SUBJECT: 2008 SAFE BOARDING WEEK

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 transiting the Canal. In order to promote awareness and compliance with Canal requirements by vessels in Canal waters, the ACP will hold its Annual “Safe Boarding Week” from July 7 through 11, 2008. 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 teams representing groups who normally board vessels, such as canal port captains, pilots, transit vessel inspectors, chemists and emergency response personnel, admeasurers, deckhands as well as ship’s agents.

This year the ACP will continue promoting preventive measures that should be taken in order to avoid a tripping hazard created by the retrieving line attached to the pilot ladder, and the excess portion of the pilot ladders, which is very often laid out on deck. The ACP suggests that the use of a box-like structure be placed over the excess portion of the ladder to be utilized at the embarkation point on the deck. This will provide for a flat, non-slippery surface as persons transfer from the ladder to the deck of the vessel. This structure may be permanent or may be constructed so that it is lightweight and portable allowing for it to be used only as the situation warrants.

Vessels at both Cristobal and Balboa Anchorages will be boarded and inspections of their boarding facilities will be made using the enclosed inspection checklist. Vessels’ Masters will be provided with the results of the inspection. Those vessels deserving special recognition for excellence will be presented with plaques that will be delivered immediately after the inspection. Vessels with boarding facilities determined to be below acceptable standards, must correct the deficiencies prior to transit.

This document is cancelled automatically for record purposes on July 30, 2008.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Manuel E. Benítez
Executive Vice President
of Operations

Enclosure



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Rev. 6-2008

**AUTORIDAD DEL CANAL DE PANAMA
TRANSIT OPERATIOS DIVISION**

“SAFE BOARDING WEEK” INSPECTION CHECKLIST

Ship's Name: SIN: Ship type:
 Loa: Ext. Beam: Agent:

ACCORDING TO SOLAS AND ACP REGULATIONS SAFETY...IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

	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				
II. ACCOMMODATION LADDER				
Leading aft. and resting flat against hull				
Lower platform of adequate size, in horizontal position and fitted with stanchions				
Boatspar 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 55 degrees				

Boarding Officer: Code: Date: