

May 13, 2003

**MR'S ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-12-2003**

**TO : ALL STEAMSHIP AGENTS, OWNERS, AND OPERATORS**

**SUBJECT: 2003 SAFE BOARDING WEEK**

1. The Panama Canal Authority considers proper boarding facilities to be an absolute necessity to ensure the safety of operating personnel as well as others using these facilities in the Canal. To promote awareness and compliance with Canal requirements by transiting vessels, "Safe Boarding Week" will be held June 23 through 27, 2003. During this period, the ACP will emphasize and encourage safe boarding and debarkation of all vessels arriving at the waterway.
2. "Safe Boarding Week" will involve teams representing groups who board vessels frequently, such as Canal Port Captains, Pilots, Transit Vessel Inspectors, Chemists and Emergency Response personnel, Admeasurers and Deckhands. Vessels in both Cristobal and Balboa anchorages will be boarded and inspected by these teams, utilizing the attached inspection checklist. Vessel masters will be provided with the results of the inspection. Vessels deserving special recognition for excellence will be presented plaques that will be forwarded through their local agents. Any vessel with boarding facilities determined to be below accepted standards, will have to correct the deficiencies prior to transit.
3. Local agents or their representatives who desire to participate may contact the Admeasurement Unit at 272-4567.
4. This document is cancelled automatically for record purposes on June 28, 2003.

**ORIGINAL SIGNED**

Arcelio H. Hartley  
Acting Maritime Operations Director

Enclosure:  
([Check List](#))

