

October 11, 2004

**MR'S ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-49-2004**

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

**SUBJECT: MAJOR LOCKS OUTAGES – TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**

1. The maintenance of the locks of the Panama Canal is essential for the long-term viability of the waterway. Work requiring locks outages affect the Canal daily average transit capacity and, as such, are of concern to our customers and Canal officials. In order to minimize their impact and to assist Canal customers in their planning efforts, a tentative schedule of outages for the 12 months is hereby provided. Dates are tentative and will be updated on a quarterly basis, or when deemed necessary.

| <b>Tentative Schedule of Locks Outages for 2004 – 2005</b> |                    |                      |                     |  |                               |               |
|--|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--|-------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Dates</b>   | <b>Outage Days</b> | <b>Miraflores</b>    | <b>Pedro Miguel</b> | <b>Gatun</b>   | <b>Transit Capacity</b>       | <b>Status</b> |
| Dec. 16 – 17, 2004   | 2                  |                      | Lane Outage         | Lane Outage  | 26 - 28                       | Tentative     |
| June 2005  | 0                  |                      |                     | Lane with restrictions (14 days)                         | 34 - 36                       | Tentative     |
| July 2005  | 4                  | Lane Outage (4 days) |                     | Lane Outage (4 days)<br>Lane with restrictions (10 days) | 26 – 28 (4d)<br>34 – 36 (10d) | Tentative     |
| August 2005  | 7                  | Lane Outage (5 days) |                     | Lane Outage (7 days)<br>Lane with restrictions (3 days)  | 26 – 28 (7d)<br>34 – 36 (3d)  | Tentative     |
| September 2005   | 8                  |                      |                     | Lane Outage (8 days)<br>Lane with restrictions (7 days)  | 26 – 28 (8d)<br>34 – 36 (7d)  | Tentative     |
| October 2005   | 7                  |                      |                     | Lane Outage (7 days)<br>Lane with restrictions (3 days)  | 26 – 28 (7d)<br>34 – 36 (3d)  | Tentative     |

2. The normal transit capacity of the Panama Canal is 38 vessel transits per day; however, this capacity is reduced during locks outages. Depending on the mix of ships, the approximate capacity for each lock lane is shown in the table above. Consequently, vessels may experience delays in transiting during locks outages. The physical Canal daily transit capacity is defined by the most constraining condition that exists during a particular locks outage combination. Normally, during these periods, the Panama Canal Vessel Transit Reservation System slots are fully utilized.



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Subject: Major Locks Outages – Tentative Schedule

3. Two-day lane outages have no significant impact on Canal capacity and vessel backlog and are not normally published in this chart since the effects are negligible and not distinguishable from the daily variations attributable to arrival surges, ship mix, weather conditions, vessel discrepancies or Canal schedule deterioration. However, the Dec. 16-17 two-day lane outage was included in this chart for your convenience.

4. Locks outages are normally scheduled from June to October, which historically are periods of low traffic levels. The specific dates for these outages are subject to adjustments depending on prevailing transit demands, urgency of repairs and other circumstances. Tentative outages will be confirmed, as dates become firm. Resource augmentation will be provided when deemed necessary. Similarly, rules governing the Transit Booking System will be applied as required. Updated schedules will be submitted periodically to the industry.

**ORIGINAL SIGNED**

Jorge L. Quijano  
Maritime Operations Director