

October 28, 2005

**MR'S ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-38-2005**

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

**SUBJECT: PRE-ARRIVAL CARGO DECLARATION**

1. Article 30 of the ACP Regulation on Navigation in Panama Canal Waters requires that vessels intending to arrive at Panama Canal waters declare all cargo carried on board at least 96 hours prior to their arrival. Vessels that arrive from ports that are less than 96 hours away are required to submit revisions to their original cargo declarations as may be necessary in order to provide updated cargo information. Exceptions to this requirement are:

- a. Bins (standard-size open top containers) or any other receptacles (not containers) that are carried on deck to store equipment that is not welded or spot welded. The vessel's master must declare the information regarding these items to ACP boarding officers upon arrival at Panama Canal waters.
- b. Vessels intending to transit transporting radioactive material that is classified under IMO Class 7 – Schedule 13, shall provide a 30-day advance notification, as required by Article 137 of the Regulation on Navigation in Panama Canal waters.

2. Effective January 1, 2006, ACP boarding officers will begin verification of cargo information submitted in the pre-arrival notification. Please refer to MR's Advisory to Shipping No.A-17-2005 regarding the verification procedure.

3. Discrepancies detected during the verification of the pre-arrival cargo declaration vs. the cargo manifest presented by the master will be reported to the ACP Canal Protection Division. These discrepancies will be evaluated and may lead to the application of security control measures as deemed necessary by the ACP. These control measures may include, but not be limited to one or more of the following:

- a. Direct communication with the vessel's master to clarify any discrepancies or any other security related issues,
- b. Delay of transit,
- c. The assignment of additional resources,
- d. The escorting of the vessel,
- e. Fines

4. All additional resources provided by the Canal on account of discrepancies identified during the verification of the cargo declaration will be charged to the vessel as indicated in Advisory to Shipping No. A-17-2205. Notwithstanding the above, the discrepancies detected shall be corrected and submitted through the ACP Electronic Data Collection System (EDCS) before the vessel departs to sea. Failure to do so may result in a notification being sent to the Port Facility Officer of the next port of call, as well as in an increase to the vessel's assigned security level the next time the vessel is presented for transit.

5. All other requirements and inspection procedures previously announced remain unchanged.

6. Additional inquiries regarding this Advisory may be directed to [mrxm@pancanal.com](mailto:mrxm@pancanal.com).

**ORIGINAL SIGNED**

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