

June 26, 2006

MR'S ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-18-2006

TO : All Steamship Agents, Owners, and Operators

SUBJECT: Customer Code Issuance / Consolidation Procedures (Reminder)

As published in MR's Advisory to Shipping No. A-42-2005, and later in MR's Notice to Shipping No. N-03-2006, the Customer Code Issuance and Consolidation Procedure, which was promulgated for your reference and compliance, is available at the following link:

<http://www.pancanal.com/eng/maritime/customer-code-procedure.pdf>

The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) requires that a Customer Code be provided to every vessel's visit to transit the Panama Canal, with the exception of yachts or government vessels.

The customer code provided by the vessel's agent for a vessel's visit must be the customer code that belongs to the company responsible for each transit within that visit, and providing a customer code belonging to an entity that does not represent, own, operate, or charter the transiting vessel is prohibited. Therefore, the customer code provided must belong to:

- The owner of the vessel transiting the Canal, or
- the operator of the vessel transiting the Canal, or
- the company that charters a vessel transiting the Canal.

The ACP utilizes the customer code weighted ranking as the first tie-breaker criteria when two or more vessels are competing for the same transit reservation slot. Therefore, it is extremely important that the customer code used or provided for each vessel's visit be correct. However, after completion of a vessel's visit, agents and customers are granted a 30-day grace period in order to request corrections to the customer code provided in the vessel's visit, so that the correct customer code is credited when publishing the customer code ranking. The customer code ranking is available at: <http://www.pancanal.com/evtms-rpts/agents/VI5350RP.pdf>

The ACP provides several systems and reports, which are readily available to verify customer codes that were reported for each vessel's visit, such as: EDCS (ETA and SHIP DUE Module), and EVTMS (Daily Information Report, Arrivals Report, Vessel's Visit Itineraries Screen, and the Vessel Schedule Report). In addition, the Agent/Customer Summary report, available through EVTMS, provides a summary of all transiting vessels represented by local shipping agents that are logged in. This report contains information for the last 60 days.

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Non-compliance with the Customer Code Procedure by providing incorrect, false, or deficient information to the ACP constitutes a violation of the Maritime Regulations for the Operation of the Panama Canal, and may result in fines ranging from \$100 to \$1,000,000. The application of sanctions does not preclude the ACP from canceling previously approved consolidation of customer codes, and may also result in the loss of the amount of transits that have been credited to the offending customer.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Arcelio H. Hartley
Acting Maritime Operations Director