



June 6, 2008

OP'S ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-16-2008

TO : All Steamship Agents, Owners, and Operators

**SUBJECT: Panama Canal Transit Reservation (Booking) System – Return to Normal
Number of Booking Slots for Supers**

On March 24, 2008, the Panama Canal Authority announced in Advisory to Shipping A-09-2008, a temporary reduction in the number of booking slots for supers due to the large number of non-booked vessels awaiting transit through the Panama Canal, in addition to other measures taken to reduce the vessel backlog.

For the past several days, the vessel backlog has remained under 50, and the waiting time has decreased to less than two days. Therefore, effective June 9, 2008, the number of available booking slots for supers will return to 17. Requests for these slots may be received beginning 0900 hours, Friday, June 6, 2008, and the limits by direction will return to ten for vessels transiting in the southbound direction and nine for vessels transiting in the northbound direction, as established in Advisory to Shipping A-02-2008.

Based on present and projected arrivals over the next few days, some of the measures taken on March 28, 2008 are hereby rescinded. Therefore,

- Maintenance work on critical equipment will be resumed.
- Scheduling of non-commercial handlines will return to a maximum of two lockages in each direction, each day.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Manuel E. Benítez
Executive Vice President of Operations