

**AGREEMENT No. 66**  
**(of April 22, 2003)**

“Whereby the Regulation on Navigation in Panama Canal Waters is amended”

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**OF THE PANAMA CANAL AUTHORITY**

**WHEREAS:**

Article 18.5.e. of Law 19 of June 11, 1997, establishes that the Board of Directors of the Panama Canal shall approve the regulations applicable to the admeasurement and inspection of vessels, Canal navigation, marine traffic control, vessel pilotage, and other matters relative to Canal navigation.

In exercising this authority, the Board of Directors approved the Regulation on Navigation in Panama Canal Waters by means of Agreement No. 13. of June 3, 1999.

Article 30 of said Regulation requires that vessels approaching the Panama Canal shall communicate by radio not less than 48 hours in advance of arrival, and shall provide the Authority the information required by the Annex, and that failure to comply with this provision may subject a vessel to delay in transiting.

In practice, this 48-hour notification period is not sufficient to plan for actual needs in order to allow for an adequate response to the changing conditions in the arrival of vessels in the Canal.

The 48-hour period is also not sufficient for an adequate utilization of resources, which requires their reassignment due to the many varying factors of Canal operations, particularly with regard to safety. It is, therefore, necessary to amend Article 30 in order that the Panama Canal Authority be notified at least 96 hours prior to a vessel's arrival in the Canal.

The Administrator of the Authority has submitted a draft containing the pertinent amendment to the Board of Directors for its consideration.

**IT AGREES:**

**ARTICLE:** Article 30 of the Regulation on Navigation in Panama Canal Waters is amended as follows:

**“Article 30:** Vessels approaching the Panama Canal shall communicate by radio not less than 96 hours in advance of their arrival, and shall provide the Authority the information required by the Annex, unless this information has been previously communicated by other means.

The Administration shall, in special cases, establish a notification period of less than the time established herein.

Failure to comply with this provision may subject a vessel to delay in transiting.”

TO BE PUBLISHED AND EXECUTED.

Jerry Salazar A.

Diógenes de la Rosa

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Minister for Canal Affairs

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Secretary