



\*\*\*\*\*PANAMA CANAL UPDATE\*\*\*\*\*

March 23, 2006

**RE: Canal Congestion**

2400 hrs March 23rd backlog of vessels awaiting transit continues at 70. Projection next 48 hrs - 78 vessels. Delays to non booked vessels (all categories) ranging minimum 3 to 4 days.

For the moment no indication as to when/if normal Canal operations will be restored.  
Daily booking applications far exceeding slots available (Transit Reservation System).

**RE: Transit Draft**

Maximum transit draft Gatun Lake level and loadline permitting remains 39 ft 06 inches (12.04 meters) Tropical Fresh Water (TFW). TFW of Gatun Lake waters, density 0.9954 gms/cc at 85 deg F (29.4 deg C). Transition to fresh water frequently alters the trim of large vessels 3 to 4 inches (7.5 to 10 centimeters) by the head.

In order to enjoy the present maximum transit draft, initial transits and/or new buildings, must submit the following bilge keel information:

- 1) "A" - Half breadth of vessel to outside of shell.
- 2) "R" - Radius of turn of bilge (feet & inches).
- 3) "DR" - Dead rise at side of vessel (inches).

**RE: Transit Reservation System (Booking)**

A distilled version of these complicated rules:

The booking system has 3 periods for applications.  
First period: 365 to 22 days before transit date.  
Second period: 21 to 4 days before transit date.  
Third period: 3 to 2 days before transit date.

When applications exceed slots available, booking slots are allocated on a tie breaking criteria of weighted ranking. Each Canal customer has a ranking comprised of total amount of tolls paid in the previous 12 months (60%) and total number of bookings in the previous 12 months (40%). Application for bookings are received by the Canal Authority every day at 0900 to 0930 hrs and submitted online or faxed. Any booking slots available after the 0930 hrs window are assigned on a first come first served basis.

Maximum booking slots are available for only 50% of daily traffic.  
For further information please refer our Handy Booking Guide.



**RE: Locks Maintenance Schedule 2006**

The following is a revised schedule of maintenance from the Canal Authority:

June 6-15 (10 days) Miraflores - lane w-restrictions  
July 11-20 (10 days) Gatun - lane w-restrictions  
July 17-22 ( 6 days) Miraflores - culvert outage  
Aug 12-14 ( 3 days) Gatun - lane w-restrictions  
Aug 15-19 ( 5 days) Gatun - lane outage  
Aug 20-24 ( 5 days) Gatun - lane w-restrictions  
Sept 12-19 ( 8 days) Gatun - lane outage

During these periods delays to non booked vessels anticipate min 72 hrs.

ANY INFORMATION NEED IT DON'T HESITATE TO CONTACT US.

Thanks

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