

## **Advisory To Shipping No. A-34-2024**

September 17, 2024

**TO:** All Shipping Agents, Owners, and Operators  
**SUBJECT:** Modifications to the Transit Reservation (Booking) System

The Panama Canal Authority announces modifications to the Transit Reservation (Booking) System rules for the slot allocation to Panamax Plus vessels, the Transit Date Advancement Service and the In-Transit Time (ITT) for booked vessels.

Effective September 18, 2024, after the Neopanamax 2<sup>nd</sup> period tiebreaker competition, if the conditioned slot has not been allocated for booking dates beginning October 2, 2024, the slot will be offer through a special auction to Panamax Plus or Neopanamax vessel during the Booking Period 2. If the slot was not awarded through this auction, it will be carried over to the Booking Period 3. The minimum bid amount for the auction will be one hundred thousand US dollars. The requirements for the conditioned slots may be found in the Notice to Shipping N-07-2024. Panamax Plus vessels may also obtain booking slots through auction in the Booking Period 3 as previously published. The rule published in the Advisory A-19-2024 regarding the limitation of one Panamax Plus per transit date remains in effect.

In reference to the Transit Date Advancement, the service will be considered as having been provided once the vessel arrives at the first set of locks on the approved date for the Transit date Advancement, regardless of the In-transit-time (ITT).

Additionally, for transit dates beginning October 1, 2024, vessels from all three categories with an approved Transit Date Advancement will have the following arrival time requirements:

- For Neopanamax and Panamax Plus vessels, the required arrival time is 2200 hours of the day prior to the Transit Date Advancement. For Neopanamax LNG carriers, the required arrival time is 0200 hours of the day of the Transit Date Advancement.
- For Supers and Regular vessels with restrictions, the required arrival time is 0200 hours of the day of the Transit Date Advancement. For booking dates beginning January 1, 2025, the required arrival time will be 2200 hours of the day prior to the Transit Date Advancement.
- For Regular vessels without restrictions, the required arrival time is 1400 hours of the day of the Transit Date Advancement.

Vessels that fail to arrive at the Canal terminal by the required arrival time will be assessed a forfeiture fee and may elect to maintain their Transit Date Advancement by requesting the late arrival option, subject to the payment of an additional fee as per Official Maritime Services Tariff. A Transit Date Advancement may be canceled without charge or may waive assessment of a penalty fee if the vessel's late arrival was due to the reasons mentioned in article 30 of the Regulation on Navigation in Panama Canal waters, and further explained in the Notice to Shipping N-07-2024.

OP, September 17, 2024

Subject: Modification to the Transit Reservation (Booking) System

Effective with tiebreaker competition at the opening of Booking Period 1 on October 3, 2024, for booking dates beginning January 1, 2025, the maximum In-Transit Time (ITT) will be 24 hours, except as determined otherwise by the ACP. Vessels with booking slots awarded through the Long-Term Slot Allocation (LoTSA) Methodology will maintain the 18-hour ITT rule.

For any inquiries, please contact: [operationservices@pancanal.com](mailto:operationservices@pancanal.com).

**ORIGINAL SIGNED**

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