AUTORIDAD DEL CANAL DE PANAMÁ
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENCY FOR OPERATIONS

ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-06-2018

February 19, 2018

TO : All Shipping Agents, Owners, and Operators

SUBJECT: Maximum Allowable Draft for Neopanamax Locks

Based on the present and projected level of Gatun Lake for the following weeks, effective **March 19, 2018,** the maximum authorized transit draft for vessels transiting the Neopanamax locks will be **14.94 meters (49.0 feet) Tropical Fresh Water (TFW),** with the following considerations:

- Vessels loaded to drafts over 14.94 meters (49.0 feet) prior to February 21, 2018, will be waived for transit, subject to safety considerations.

- Vessels loaded on or after February 21, 2018, shall comply with this draft announcement.

- Vessels arriving with drafts over 14.94 meters (49.0 feet) TFW may be allowed to transit past March 19, 2018, depending on the actual level of Gatun Lake at the time of transit. Otherwise, they will be required to trim or off-load cargo in order to be allowed to transit.

Draft adjustments will be implemented in 30-centimeter (one foot) decrements at a time, each one announced with at least four weeks advanced notice. Vessels already loaded to the prevailing draft limitation at the time of publication of the new draft condition will be waived for transit, subject to overriding safety considerations.

The **maximum authorized transit draft** is the deepest point of immersion in TFW permitted for a particular vessel in Gatun Lake. Water density of Gatun Lake is 0.9954 at 29.4°C (85°F). Vessels shall arrive at Canal waters with no list.

Maximum allowable draft is seasonal and is determined based on actual and projected Gatun Lake levels, which depend on prevailing weather conditions, including precipitation within the Canal watershed.

The Panama Canal Authority will continue monitoring the level of Gatun Lake in order to announce future adjustments in a timely manner.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Esteban G. Sáenz
Executive Vice President
  for Operations