

**Circular From UK**  
**Date: 11 March 2016****Panama Canal Draft Restrictions**

Current Canal transit delays are experiencing three to four days waiting time for non-booked Atlantic arrivals and four to five days for Pacific arrivals. The predicted continued lack of rainfall means that the Canal Authority have to take “water conservation” measures which include slower speeds through certain sections of the canal, especially where there are ongoing dredging operations.

**Panama Canal Authority has published below circular:**

**ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No.A-07-2016**

March 1, 2016

**To:** All Shipping Agents, Owners, and Operators

**SUBJECT:** Update on Gatun Lake Level and Draft Restriction Projections due to “El Nino” Phenomenon

As a follow-up to Advisory to Shipping A-5-2016, the Panama Canal Authority (ACP) would like to report that as of 0700 hours LT, March 1, 2016, the level of Gatun Lake was 24.77 m (81.25 feet) PLD. Our most recent forecast indicates that the descending trend of the level of Gatun Lake will continue through March and April 2016. Based on these adverse meteorological conditions, it is projected that draft restrictions will most likely be imposed during the second half of April 2016.

If draft restrictions become necessary, the ACP will issue an Advisory to Shipping indicating the maximum allowable draft (TFW) and effective date of implementation. This Advisory will be published at least four to five weeks prior to the implementation date, in order to provide vessels being loaded with sufficient time to comply with this new restriction.

This information is provided for planning purposes only, as any draft restrictions will be implemented based on forecast updates and the actual level of Gatun Lake.

Source of Information: UK P&I Club