

Circular From UK
Date: 28 April 2016

Panama Canal Draft Restrictions - Update

The Panama Canal Authority has announced a third draft restriction in Panama Canal. The third draft restriction which will be effective 9th May 2016. The maximum authorised transit draft will be set at 11.59m (38.0 feet) Tropical Fresh Water (TFW).

Panama Canal Authority has published below circular:

ADVISORY TO SHIPPING NO.A-18-2016

April 11, 2016

TO: All Shipping Agents, Owners, and Operators
SUBJECT: Draft Restriction to 11.59 m (38.0 feet) TFW

Based on the present and projected level of Gatun Lake for the following weeks, the third draft restriction is hereby being announced.

Effective May 9, 2016, the maximum authorized transit draft is set at 11.59 meters (38.0 feet) Tropical Fresh Water (TFW), as follows:

- Vessels loaded to drafts over 11.59 meters (38.0 feet) prior to or on April 11, 2016, will have this draft restriction waived for transit, subject to safety considerations.
- Vessels loaded after April 11, 2016, shall comply with this new draft limitation.
- Vessels arriving with drafts over 11.59 meters (38.0 feet), TFW, may be allowed to transit after May 9, 2016, depending on the level of Gatun Lake at the time of transit. Otherwise, they will be required to trim or off-load cargo in order to transit.

As in the past, draft restrictions will be implemented in 15-centimeter (six-inch) decrements at a time, with each restriction announced at least four weeks in advance. Vessels already loaded to the prevailing draft limitation at the time of announcing the new draft restriction will have this restriction waived for transit, subject to 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. The Panama Canal Authority will eliminate these draft restrictions as soon as Gatun Lake level returns to normal.

Source of Information: UK P&I Club