

Circular From UK**Date: 14 April 2016****Panama Canal - Update**

Panama Canal Authority has officially announced the expansion of the Panama Canal. The commercial opening of the Panama Canal Expansion is scheduled for 26th June 2016.

We would further remind our members of the recent draft restrictions to enter into force on 18th April 2016.

Panama Canal Authority has published below circular:

ADVISORY TO SHIPPING NO.A-12-2016

March 21, 2016

TO: All Shipping Agents, Owners, and Operators

SUBJECT: Implementation of First Draft Restriction

As anticipated in Advisories to Shipping A-5-2016 and A-7-2016, the first draft restriction is hereby announced.

Effective April 18, 2016, the maximum authorized transit draft will be set at 11.89 meters (39.0 feet), Tropical Fresh Water (TFW), as follows:

- Vessels loaded to drafts over 11.89 meters (39.0 feet) prior to or on March 21, 2016, will have this draft restriction waived for transit, subject to safety considerations.
- Vessels loaded after March 21, 2016, shall comply with this new draft limitation.
- Vessels arriving with drafts over 11.89 meters (39.0 feet), TFW, may be allowed to transit after this date 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 allowed for each particular vessel in Gatun Lake, which has a density of 0.9954 at 29.4° C (85° F). However, 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

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