

## **Transit Reservation System (Booking)**

For good order we provide again a very condensed version of the rules/regs.

- First period : 365 to 22 days before transit date.
- Second period: 21 to 4 days before transit date.
- Third period : 3 to 2 days before transit date.

*There is a special period for cruise vessels which begins from 547 to 366 days prior to the booking date.*

When applications exceed slots available, booking slots are allocated on a tie breaking criteria of weighted ranking. Each Canal customer has a ranking comprised of total amount of tolls paid in the previous 12 months (60%) and total number of transits in the previous 12 months (40%). Application for bookings are received by the Canal Authority every day at 0900 to 0930 hrs and submitted online or faxed. Any booking slots available after the 0930 hrs window are assigned on a first come first served basis.

Arrival deadline 0200 hrs (over 91 ft beam) / 1400 hrs (under 91 ft beam). Failure to meet deadline triggers forfeiture of booking fee and scheduling without priority. The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) will endeavour to transit a "late arrival" booked ship for a surcharge of up to 200% of the booking fee (depending on time of arrival), subject to operators' approval.

Booking fees are in addition to normal transit tolls and range from US\$ 2,500.00 / US\$ 35,000.00 according to vessels' size (loa/beam).

There is one additional booking slot made available every day through the auction process. The initial bid has been established at US\$ 35,000 for "supers" (over 91 ft beam) and US\$ 15,000 for "regulars" (under 91 ft beam).

Booking guarantees a transit on a specific date, but not lockage times. Canal Authority considers a transit booking accomplished if a vessel can transit, lock to lock, within 18 hrs. If exceeds 18 hrs, booking fee is reimbursed.

Non booked ships transit in their turn of arrival, based on size, draft and cargo. Scheduling is at the convenience of the Canal Authority, who endeavour to maximize the mix of vessels which can transit per day (24 hrs).