

## Advisory To Shipping No. A-47-2023

October 25, 2023

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

**SUBJECT:** Extension of Condition 3 in the Panamax Locks and Transition from Condition 3 to New Condition 5

The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) announces the extension of **Booking Condition 3** in the Panamax Locks until November 7, 2023. Meanwhile, the new **Booking Condition 5**, to be implemented on November 1, 2023, becomes effective for booking dates beginning November 8, 2023.

The details regarding the implementation phase of the modifications announced in Advisory to Shipping A-43-2023 are provided below:

For *Supers*, beginning on November 1, 2023, the auction slots for November 3 through November 7, 2023, will be offered each day (two days prior to transit date). In addition, slots that become available for these dates due to cancellations or other reasons will be offered through extraordinary auctions. There will also be a daily special competition for the new booking slots being added to Supers, for transit dates beginning on November 8, 2023. Similarly, beginning on November 1, 2023, the daily auctions for the new Period 3 will be offered for transit dates beginning on November 8, 2023.

The following table summarizes the slot allocation process for Supers during the first week of the implementation phase:

	SUPERS		
	Slot Allocation Process - Transition Phase		
	Current Period 3 (2 daily auctions)	Special Competition (4 slots*)	New Period 3 (3 daily auctions**)
Calendar Date	Transit Date		
1-Nov-23	3-Nov-23	8-Nov-23	8-Nov-23
2-Nov-23	4-Nov-23	9-Nov-23	9-Nov-23
3-Nov-23	5-Nov-23	10-Nov-23	10-Nov-23
4-Nov-23	6-Nov-23	11-Nov-23	11-Nov-23
5-Nov-23	7-Nov-23	12-Nov-23	12-Nov-23
6-Nov-23	-	13-Nov-23	13-Nov-23
7-Nov-23	-	14-Nov-23	14-Nov-23

\*Slots that become available due to cancellations or other reasons may also be offered during the special competitions.

\*\*Slots that become available due to cancellations or other reasons may also be offered through auction.

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For Neopanamax vessels, beginning on November 1, 2023, the daily auction slot will be offered for November 8, 2023. The special auction is being suspended until further notice.

The following table summarizes the slot allocation process during the first week of the implementation phase:

	<b>Neopanamax Vessels</b>	
	<b>Slot Allocation Process - Transition Phase</b>	
		New Period 3 One Daily Auction
<b>Calendar Date</b>	<b>Transit Date</b>	
<b>1-Nov-23</b>	No auctions will be held for booking slots between November 3 and November 7, 2023	8-Nov-23
<b>2-Nov-23</b>		9-Nov-23
<b>3-Nov-23</b>		10-Nov-23
<b>4-Nov-23</b>		11-Nov-23
<b>5-Nov-23</b>		12-Nov-23
<b>6-Nov-23</b>		13-Nov-23
<b>7-Nov-23</b>		14-Nov-23

For *regular vessels* (vessels under 91 feet or 27.74 meters in beam), beginning on November 1, 2023, the auction slots for November 3 through November 7, 2023, will be offered each day (two days prior to transit date). In addition, slots that become available for these dates due to cancellations or other reasons will also be offered through extraordinary auctions. The daily auctions for the new Period 3 will be offered for transit dates beginning November 8, 2023. The following table summarizes the slot allocation process during the first week of the implementation phase:

	<b>Regular Vessels</b>	
	<b>Slot Allocation Process - Transition Phase</b>	
	<b>Current Period 3</b> (one daily auction)	<b>New Period 3</b> (one daily auction)
<b>Calendar Date</b>	<b>Transit Date</b>	
<b>1-Nov-23</b>	3-Nov-23	8-Nov-23
<b>2-Nov-23</b>	4-Nov-23	9-Nov-23
<b>3-Nov-23</b>	5-Nov-23	10-Nov-23
<b>4-Nov-23</b>	6-Nov-23	11-Nov-23
<b>5-Nov-23</b>	7-Nov-23	12-Nov-23

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Under the new Booking Condition 5, the limits per direction and restriction per vessel category, prior to the opening of Booking Period 3, will be as follows:

**Neopanamax Locks.** No more than four (4) Neopanamax vessels may be booked for transit in the northbound direction, and of these, no more than one (1) with *daylight at the locks* restriction (HML-M, HML-D or HML-O). Similarly, no more than three (3) Neopanamax vessels may be booked for transit in the southbound direction, and of these, no more than one with *daylight at the locks* restriction (HML-M, HML-D or HML-O). The maximum number of *daylight at the locks* restricted vessels allowed, combined with LNG vessels remains at three (3) per day. The conditioned slot may be northbound or southbound. The total number of slots while this condition is in effect may not exceed seven (7). The table below summarizes the slot distribution per direction and restriction for Neopanamax vessels:

NEOPANAMAX	NORTHBOUND	SOUTHBOUND	MAXIMUM*
Number of slots	4	3	7**
Daylight restricted slots	1	1	3**
LNG slots	2	1	2
Conditioned slot	1	1	1

\*Excluding auctioned slots  
\*\*Including LNGs

In addition, during Booking Period 1, a maximum of two (2) slots may be allocated to Neopanamax vessels transiting in the northbound or the southbound direction. During Period 1.a, the maximum number of slots that may be allocated vessels transiting in the northbound direction is limited to three (3) and the maximum number of slots that may be allocated vessels transiting in the southbound direction is limited to two (2).

**Supers.** No more than seven (7) vessels may be booked in the northbound direction, and of these, no more than 4 with *daylight at the locks* restriction (HML-M, HML-D or HML-O). Similarly, no more than seven (7) vessels may be booked in the southbound direction, and of these, no more than four (4) with *daylight at the locks* restriction (HML-D or HML-M). The total number of *daylight at the locks* restricted vessels cannot exceed eight (8). The table below summarizes the slot distribution per direction and restriction for supers:

PANAMAX	NORTHBOUND	SOUTHBOUND	MAXIMUM*
Number of slots	7	7	14
Daylight restricted slots	4	4	8

\*Excluding auctioned slots

**Regulars.** No more than three (3) vessels may be booked in the same direction. Of the total number of slots available, no more than two (2) shall be allocated to vessels transiting with restrictions, i.e., *clear-cut*, *daylight in the cut*, or *daylight at the locks*. The table below summarizes the slot distribution per direction and restriction for regulars:

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<b>REGULARS</b>	<b>NORTHBOUND</b>	<b>SOUTHBOUND</b>	<b>MAXIMUM*</b>
Number of slots	3	3	4
Restricted slots	2	2	2

\*Excluding auctioned slots

During the transition phase, the slots that are being added in different booking periods for both Neopanamax vessels and Supers will become available when the subsequent periods open.

Once the transition phase is completed, in Booking Period 3, only auctions will be offered. Slots that become available while Period 3 is open will be offered through extraordinary auctions. The conditions for the daily auction, as well as for other auctions, will be determined based on the slots already allocated in previous periods. The *In-Transit-Time* (ITT) for these auctions will be 18 hours, unless otherwise indicated. For vessel categories where there is more than one slot to be auctioned, subsequent auctions will be offered after the slots from previous auctions are awarded.

Once the changes are implemented, the waiting time for non-booked vessels will likely increase considerably, depending on the availability of slots based on the published Canal capacity and the new booking slot distribution.

As indicated in Advisory to Shipping A-35-2023, we strongly recommend customers to make use of the Transit Reservation System to reduce the possibility of extensive delays.

For any inquiries regarding these rules, please contact our Customer Service office at the following email address: [customerservice@pancanal.com](mailto:customerservice@pancanal.com)

**ORIGINAL SIGNED**

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