

## Advisory To Shipping No. A-13-2026

May 8, 2026

**TO :** All Shipping Agents, Owners, and Operators  
**SUBJECT :** Modifications to the Transit Reservation (Booking) System

The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) announces modifications to the Transit Reservation (Booking) System to further optimize capacity, flexibility and customer logistics. These innovations are part of our continued commitment to modernize our service portfolio and deliver an enhanced transit experience through the Panama Canal.

Effective May 9, 2026, for booking dates beginning May 17, 2026, the following rules will apply:

Competition preferences at the Neopanamax and Panamax Locks shall apply exclusively when vessels involved meet all the following criteria:

- Transit in the same direction;
- Are subject to the same operational restrictions, and
- Belong to the same Customer Code.

Additionally, for the Neopanamax Locks, vessels must also belong to the same market segment.

A vessel that participates, on the same day, in competitions for different reservation dates must submit its preferred reservation date via email to [Booking@pancanal.com](mailto:Booking@pancanal.com) within the established timeframe of 0900 to 0930 hours on the day the competition is conducted. If the vessel fails to submit this preference within the specified period, and in the event the vessel is declared the winner in more than one competition, the reservation slot corresponding to the earliest reservation date will be assigned.

### Number of slots awarded per customer code

Regarding the number of two (2) daily slots that may be awarded to each customer (per customer code) per booking date, in the Panamax Locks, the following rules will apply and replaced items A, B and C of the section “22. Same Direction Transits/Supers” on page 19 of Notice to Shipping N07:

- A. A customer may be awarded up to two (2) reservations during Period 1. Slots awarded during Period 1 are not considered for the two-slot daily limitation in Period 2.
- B. Customers with slots allocated during Period 2 will be considered for the two-slot daily limitation and may not be assigned a slot for another vessel during any special competition for the same booking date. Including allocations obtained through competitions, and any reservation service or transaction performed during that period, regardless of when the slot was originally awarded.

OP, May 8, 2026

Subject: ADV-13-2026 Modifications to the Transit Reservation (Booking) System

- C. Customers with slots allocated during Period 2 will be considered for the two-slot daily limitation and may not be assigned a slot for another vessel during the tiebreaker or special competition for the following booking date. Including allocations obtained through competitions, and any reservation service or transaction performed during that period, regardless of when the slot was originally awarded.

### **Customer Responsibilities**

Customers who remain in competition beyond the 0900–0930 hours window without submitting a formal notice of withdrawal or preference will be required to accept the awarded reservation and be subject to the applicable cancellation fees.

Likewise, slots awarded through the First Come, First Served (FCFS) option that a customer later decides not to use, must be formally cancelled by the customer and be subject to the applicable cancellation fees.

These provisions apply to all market segments and vessel categories, without exception.

Furthermore, the list of requirements that vessels must comply with, as published in Advisory to Shipping No. A-07-2026 has been updated and is available in the following link: <https://pancanal.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/Lista-de-Requerimientos-para-transito-y-harbor.pdf>

For any further inquiries regarding these rules, please contact: [operationservices@pancanal.com](mailto:operationservices@pancanal.com).

### **ORIGINAL SIGNED**

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