

## Advisory to Shipping No. A-03-2021

January 11, 2021

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

**SUBJECT:** Compliance with Panama Canal Shipboard Oil Pollution Emergency Plan (PCSOPEP) Requirements - Single Sanction

The Regulation on Navigation in Panama Canal Waters establishes in Chapter IX, Section Five, the requirements for vessel contingency plans for oil spills in Panama Canal waters, which apply to all vessels with fuel and/or oil cargo-carrying capacity of 400 metric tons (MT) or more. The Vessels Contingency Plan required by these regulations is known as the Panama Canal Shipboard Oil Pollution Emergency Plan (PCSOPEP).

Effective January 18, 2021, vessels determined to be non-compliant with PCSOPEP requirements will only be scheduled for transit after they fulfill both of the following requirements:

(1) The owner, operator, or the vessel's shipping agent has paid or has placed a satisfactory guarantee for the payment of the applicable sanction, by sending the letter of acceptance and undertaking of payment, which is available at:  
[http://www.pancanal.com/maritime/forms/Acceptance and Commitment.docx](http://www.pancanal.com/maritime/forms/Acceptance_and_Commitment.docx); and,

(2) The vessel submits a PCSOPEP that complies with the requirements established in Notice to Shipping No.12-2021 at least 96 hours prior to arrival at Canal waters.

The sanction will be set at a minimum of \$2,500.00.

In addition to the above-mentioned sanction, non-compliant Panamax and Neopanamax vessels, other than liquid bulk carriers, will be subject to a Tier 3 category designation and Neopanamax liquid bulk carriers will be subject to a Tier 5 category designation, and will be charge accordingly, as well as additional resources assigned to the vessel as a result of non-compliance.

Owners, operators, and masters are encouraged to ensure that their vessels comply with the PCSOPEP requirements and other Panama Canal regulations. For further information, please direct your inquiries to [pcsopep@pancanal.com](mailto:pcsopep@pancanal.com) or by telephone to (+507) 272-4635.

### ORIGINAL SIGNED

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