



Client Alert 10-2017

April 21, 2017

Panama Canal Advisory A-15-2017

Modification to Fuel Requirements in Canal Waters

We draw your attention to the article published in our recent Spring 2017 edition of ECM's Newsline, describing the fuel regulations implemented by the Panama Canal Authority (ACP), affecting vessels transiting through the Panama Canal. These regulations were circulated via ACP Advisory to Shipping A-04-2017 and stated that all vessels transiting through the Canal were required to use only distillate marine fuel or low-Sulfur hybrid fuel with a maximum Sulfur content of 3.5% M/M, unless they were fitted with and using exhaust gas scrubbers.

Following several questions from vessel operators on this subject, the ACP has now issued a new Advisory A-15-2017, which clarifies certain issues raised after the release of the previous Advisory, the gist of which is described below:

- The fuel regulations apply to all engines (main and auxiliary), boilers and ancillary equipment.
- Vessels awaiting their Canal transit at anchorage or berth are permitted to use non-compliant (heavy) fuel while waiting at those locations. However, a full changeover to light fuel must be completed at least 2 hours prior to the scheduled pilot boarding time for the vessel's Canal transit.
- Vessels will be considered ready for their Canal transit only when the fuel changeover has been completed and all engines, boilers and ancillary equipment are operating on light fuel.
- The fuel changeover should be recorded in the Engine Room logbook or (if available) fuel oil changeover logbook. Entries must include date and time of commencement and completion of changeover, as well as the Sulfur content of fuels.
- Vessels not intending to make a Canal transit can enter and depart from terminals in Panama without changing over to light fuel, as they are not subject to these regulations.

Please refer to the attachment for the full text of Advisory A-15-2017.

NOTE : Previous ACP Advisory to Shipping A-04-2017 has been included, for reference.

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