

YOUR VESSELS, OUR PORTS



**5 UPDATES YOU  
NEED TO KNOW  
ON THE PANAMA  
CANAL**



## Advisory to Shipping No. A-05-2023

February 17, 2023

**TO :** All Shipping Agents, Owners, and Operators  
**SUBJECT:** Modifications to the Booking Periods and Slot Distribution for Neopanamax Vessels

The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) hereby announces changes to the duration and slot distribution of the different booking periods for the Neopanamax locks. Effective March 1, 2023, the following changes will be in effect:

### 1. Duration of the Booking Periods.

- a. Special Passenger Period: from **730** to **366** days prior to booking date.
- b. Booking Period 1 will extend from **365** days to **31** days prior to booking date.
- c. Booking Period 1.a will extend from **30** days to **15** days prior to booking date.
- d. Booking Period 2 will extend from **14** to **4** days prior to booking date.
- e. Booking Period 3 will extend from **3** to **2** days prior to booking date.

### 2. Booking Slot distribution and allocation procedure.

- a. **Special Period for passenger vessels:** during this period, **one slot** will continue to be offered to passenger vessels. However, if the slot is not awarded at the end of the period, the slot will be carried over to Booking Period **1.a**.
- b. **Booking Period 1:** during this period, **only one** slot will be offered. Only full container and passenger vessels will be allowed to participate in this period. During the tiebreaker competition, the slots will be awarded based on customer ranking.
- c. **Booking Period 1.a:** during this period, **two slots** will be made available in addition to the slot carried over from the special passenger vessel period (when available). Only full container, LNG, and LPG vessels will be allowed to participate during this period. When assigning the first slot during the tiebreaker competition, priority will be given to full container vessels, followed by LNG vessels, and LPG vessels. When assigning the second slot, priority will be given to LNG vessels, followed by LPG vessels, and finally full container vessels. The third slot (when carried over from the special passenger vessel period) will be awarded based on customer ranking. Slots not awarded during the tiebreaker competition will be available to full container, LNG, and LPG vessels on a "first-come, first-served" basis. A maximum of two slots may be allocated to LNG vessels (two northbound slots or one northbound and one southbound).
- d. **Booking Period 2:** at the opening of this period, **three slots** will be made available to all vessels, regardless of vessel type. When assigning these slots (including the conditioned slot) during the tiebreaker competition, priority will be given to full container vessels, followed by LNG vessels (provided that no more than two LNG vessels have already been awarded in previous period) and finally, based on customer ranking. The award process for the conditioned slot remains unchanged.

**An additional slot** will be auctioned on a daily basis to vessels transiting in the southbound direction, seven (7) days prior to the transit booking date, replacing the Tuesday and Wednesday auctions currently offered. If there are no interested vessels, the slot will become available to any interested neopanamax vessel.

OP, February 17, 2023

Subject: Modifications to the Booking Periods and Slot Distribution for Neopanamax Vessels

- e. **Booking Period 3:** slots that are carried over from booking period 2 will be offered during this period, on a “first-come, first-served” basis.

The maximum number of slots per direction and restriction remain unchanged.

The changes are summarized in the following table:

	<b>SPECIAL PERIOD (730 TO 366 DAYS)</b>	<b>PERIOD 1 (365 TO 31 DAYS)</b>	<b>PERIOD 1.A (30 TO 15 DAYS)</b>	<b>PERIOD 2 (14 TO 4 DAYS)</b>	<b>PERIOD 3 (3 TO 2 DAYS)</b>
<b>Number of slots</b>	1*	1	2 (+1*)	4**	-
<b>Slot allocation</b>	Passenger vessels only	Full container and passenger vessels only, based on ranking.	Full containers, passenger vessels, LNG and LPG only.  1 <sup>st</sup> slot: first priority to Full containers; followed by LNG, then LPG  2 <sup>nd</sup> slot: first priority to LNG; followed by LPG, then full containers.  3 <sup>rd</sup> slot (if carried over): based on ranking	Priority to Full containers; then LNG; then by ranking  One (1) slot offered daily through auction, 7 days prior to transit date, in the southbound direction only	Unused slots from previous periods awarded on a first-come, first-served basis

\*Unused slots from the special passenger period will be carried over to Period 1.a.

\*\*includes the conditioned slot and the auctioned slot

Questions or comments may be directed to [customerservice@pancanal.com](mailto:customerservice@pancanal.com)

**ORIGINAL SIGNED**

Ilya R. Espino de Marotta  
Deputy Administrator and Vice President  
for Operations

## Advisory to Shipping No. A-06-2023

February 24, 2023

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

**SUBJECT:** Clarification to Changes in the Booking Periods and Slot Distribution for Neopanamax Vessels

In response to several inquiries regarding the changes to the Transit Reservation System rules announced in Advisory to Shipping A-05-2023 of the Panama Canal Authority (ACP), the following information is provided:

1. The first tiebreaker competition for the modified Period 1.a will commence at 0900 hours March 1, 2023, through March 31, 2023. The competitions for other booking periods will be done in the usual manner.
2. During the transition period, there will be days where the slots that have already been awarded during Booking Periods 1 and 1.a will affect the new slot distribution and availability for those periods and for subsequent periods. Therefore, it is possible that at the opening of some periods, there may be no slots available.
3. Beginning March 1, 2023, LPG vessels will be allowed to participate for slots in Period 1.a, at the opening of the tiebreaker competition for March 31, 2023. For slots between March 16 and March 30, 2023, requests from LPG vessels will not be accepted while Period 1.a is open. They may participate once Period 2 opens for these dates.
4. For dates between March 16 and March 30, 2023, booking slots for LNG vessels will be limited to only one (1) per day while Period 1.a is still in effect.
5. Passenger vessels are not allowed to participate for slots during Period 1.a. During this period, only full containers, LNG and LPG vessels are allowed.
6. The award process for slots offered during special competitions for any booking period will be based on the priorities established for each corresponding period, as established in Advisory to Shipping A-05-2023.
7. The first "daily auction" for southbound vessels 7 days prior to transit date will be offered on March 9, 2023, through March 16, 2023. The Tuesday and Wednesday auctions for March 7, 8, 14 and 15, 2023 will be offered in the usual manner.

In order to promote a smooth transition from the current booking periods and slot distribution to the modified periods and slot distribution, the closing time for submitting booking requests will be 1530 hours, February 28, 2023. All requests received after 1530 hours, but prior to midnight, will be discarded. Requests received after 0000 hours, March 1, 2023, will be processed based on the new rules.

### ORIGINAL SIGNED

Ilya R. Espino de Marotta  
Deputy Administrator and Vice President  
for Operations

## Advisory to Shipping No. A-08-2023

February 28, 2023

**TO :** All Shipping Agents, Owners, and Operators  
**SUBJECT:** Adjustment to 14.78 m (48.5 feet) TFW in the Neopanamax Locks

Based on the present and projected level of Gatun Lake for the upcoming weeks, the Panama Canal Authority (ACP) announces that effective March 28, 2023, the maximum authorized draft allowed for vessels transiting the Neopanamax locks will be **14.78 m (48.5 feet) TFW**.

Vessels arriving with drafts over 14.78 m (48.5 feet) TFW may be allowed to transit past March 28, 2023, depending on the actual level of Gatun Lake at the time of transit. Otherwise, they will be required to trim or off-load cargo in order to be allowed to transit.

The ACP will continue to monitor the level of Gatun Lake in order to announce future draft adjustments in a timely manner.

### ORIGINAL SIGNED

Ilya R. Espino de Marotta  
Deputy Administrator and Vice President  
for Operations

# TRANSIT WAITING TIME PROJECTIONS

Published on: March 01, 2023 at 00:00 hours



## Current backlog

**NEOPANAMAX LOCKS: 28**

**PANAMAX LOCKS: 55**

**Total backlog: 83**

## Current waiting times (in days)

Vessel Size	Northbound	Southbound
LNG	10	14
Neopanamax	10	14
Panamax Plus	10	14
Supers	6	4
Regulars	3	3

**Disclaimer:** The above table provides estimated waiting times information for non-booked vessels based on current backlog (ready and not ready to transit) and expected arrivals at the date and time it was published and shall be used for reference purposes only. These times may vary significantly based on several factors, including arrivals, vessel restrictions, booked transits (including auctioned transit slots), locks maintenance, weather conditions, among others. The ACP shall not be held liable for the consequences of any actions or decisions taken based on the information provided herein.



PANAMA UPDATE 1ST OF MARCH 2023

SUPER VESSELS **Vessel with 91 feet<=beam<=107 feet					
NORTHBOUND direction			SOUTHBOUND direction		
Panama canal	6 days		4 days		
capas next 3 days	4.5 - 5.5 days		3-4 days		
capas next 7 days	3.5- 5 days		4-6 days		
1st March 2023	7 passages	5 booked & 2 unbooked	11 passages	9 booked & 2 unbooked	
2nd March 2023	10 passages	8 booked & 2 unbooked	9 passages	7 booked & 2 unbooked	
SLOTS AVAILABLE 2nd PERIOD					
12th march 2023	2 slots	period closes on March 9th at 0859hrsLT (UTC-5);	2 slots	slots can be taken by any applicant at any moment	
13th march 2023	2 slots	period closes on March 10th at 0859hrsLT (UTC-5);	3 slots		
14th march 2023	6 slots	period closes on March 11th at 0859hrsLT (UTC-5);	6 slots		
15th march 2023	2 slots	period closes on March 12th at 0859hrsLT (UTC-5);	2 slots		
16th march 2023	2 slots	period closes on March 13th at 0859hrsLT (UTC-5);	2 slots		
17th march 2023	5 slots	period closes on March 14th at 0859hrsLT (UTC-5);	5 slots		
18th march 2023	5 slots	period closes on March 15th at 0859hrsLT (UTC-5);	3 slots		
19th march 2023	4 slots	period closes on March 16th at 0859hrsLT (UTC-5);	3slots		
20th march 2023	5 slots	period closes on March 17th at 0859hrsLT (UTC-5);	7 slots		
DRAFT RESTRICTION					
<b>Max Draft:</b> 12.04 meters (39.5 feet = 39 feet 6 inches) in deepest point of immersion in Tropical Fresh Water (TFW) permitted for particular a vessel in Gatun Lake. Water Density of Gatun Lake is 0.9954 at 29.4°C (85°F).					
<b>Panamax Plus:</b> Vessel with 91 feet<=beam<=107 feet, but draft>39.5 Feet (12.04m) TFW					
REGULAR VESSELS **Vessel with beam<91 feet					
NORTHBOUND direction			SOUTHBOUND direction		
Panama canal	3 days		3 days		
capas next 3 days	6.5 - 8.5 days		3.5 - 4.5 days		
capas next 7 days	7.5 - 9 days		4.5-6.5 days		
SLOTS AVAILABLE 2nd PERIOD					
9th March 2023	1 slot	period closes on March 6th at 0859hrsLT (UTC-5);	1 slot	slots can be taken by any applicant at any moment	
11th March	1 slot	period closes on March 8th at 0859hrsLT (UTC-5);	1 slot		
13th March	1 slot	period closes on March 10th at 0859hrsLT (UTC-5);	1 slot		
14th March	3 slot	period closes on March 11th at 0859hrsLT (UTC-5);	3 slot		
15th March	2 slot	period closes on March 12th at 0859hrsLT (UTC-5);	2 slot		
16th March	1 slot	period closes on March 13th at 0859hrsLT (UTC-5);	1 slot		
18th March	1 slot	period closes on March 15th at 0859hrsLT (UTC-5);	1 slot		
20th March	3 slot	period closes on March 17th at 0859hrsLT (UTC-5);	3 slot		
NEOPANAMAX VESSELS **Vessel with beam>107 feet					
NORTHBOUND direction			SOUTHBOUND direction		
4th March	1 conditioned slot	period closes on March 1st at 0859hrsLT (UTC-5);	1 conditioned slot	slots can be taken by any applicant at any moment	
5th March	1 conditioned slot	period closes on March 2nd at 0859hrsLT (UTC-5);	1 conditioned slot		
15th March	2 slot *1 conditioned	period closes on March 12th at 0859hrsLT (UTC-5);	3 slot *1 conditioned		
DRAFT RESTRICTION					
15.24 m (50.0 feet) Tropical Fresh Water (TFW) until Feb 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2023. 15.09 m (49.5 feet) Tropical Fresh Water (TFW) as from March 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2023. 14.94 m (49.0 feet) Tropical Fresh Water (TFW) as from March 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2023 14.78 m (48.5 feet) Tropical Fresh Water (TFW) as from March 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2023.					

(\*)Conditioned slot: One of the slots offered during the 2nd booking period (regardless the direction), will only be assigned to vessels that meet one of the following criteria:

- Full container vessels with a length overall (LOA) of less than 335.28 meters (1,100 feet), beam less than 43.28 meters (142 feet), and deep draft less than 13.72 meters (45 feet), Tropical Fresh Water (TFW); or
- Vessels with precaution designator of PD-1 or PD-2 (excluding full container vessels) with a beam of 36.58 meters (120 feet) or less, or with a length overall (LOA) of 259.08 meters (850 feet) or less; or
- Other vessel types with a length overall (LOA) of less than 304.8 meters (1,000 feet), beam of less than 41.15 meters (135 feet), and deep draft of less than 13.72 meters (45 feet) Tropical Fresh Water (TFW).



YOUR VESSELS, OUR PORTS

BOOK A PORT



[www.masoceans.com](http://www.masoceans.com)



+41 (0) 22 552 0051



[martaxelle@masoceans.com](mailto:martaxelle@masoceans.com)