İSTANBUL VE MARMARA, EGE, AKDENİZ, KARADENİZ BÖLGELERİ
DENİZ TİCARET ODASI
ISTANBUL & MARMARA, AEGEAN, MEDITERRANEAN, BLACKSEA REGIONS
CHAMBER OF SHIPPING

Sayı : 38591462-720-2026-2147 28.08.2026
Konu : Panama Kanalı'nın EL NIÑO Nedeniyle Yeni Transit ve Rezervasyon Kurallarını Uygulamaya Koymasına İlişkin ICS Duyurusu Hk.

Sirküler No: 672

Sayın Üyemiz,

Uluslararası Deniz Ticaret Odası (ICS) tarafından Odamıza gönderilen 27.08.2026 tarihli ekte sunulan yazıda;

El Niño nedeniyle yaşanan kuraklık ve rezervuarlardaki su seviyelerinin azalması sonucu Panama Kanalı İdaresi (ACP) tarafından transit rezervasyon kuralları kapsamında geçici düzenlemeler yapıldığı belirtmektedir.

Söz konusu düzenlemelerin, El Niño hava olayı nedeniyle ortalamanın altında seyreden yağışlar ve rezervuarlara ulaşan su miktarındaki azalma nedeniyle uygulandığı ifade edilmektedir.

Yazıda devamla, Panama Kanalı İdaresi (ACP) tarafından yapılan düzenlemeler ile geçiş kontenjanının farklı pazar segmentleri arasında adil şekilde dağıtılmasının ve suyu daha verimli kullanan gemilere öncelik verilmesinin amaçlandığı bildirilmektedir.

Panama Kanalı İdaresi (ACP) nin 20 Ağustos ve 25 Ağustos tarihli duyurularında yer alan değişikliklerin Ek A, Ek B ve Ek C'de yer aldığı bildirilmektedir.

- 4 Eylül 2026 tarihinde başlayan rezervasyon tarihleri için Neopanamax Kilitleri'ndeki günlük geçiş kontenjanı 9 ile, Panamax Kilitleri'nde kullanıma sunulan günlük geçiş kontenjanı ise 25 ile sınırlandırılacaktır. Detaylı bilgi Ek B'de yer almaktadır.
- ACP, seçilmiş açık artırma geçiş kontenjanlarını, yük türü, pazar segmentinin özellikleri ve gemilerin işletilme şekli gibi kriterlere göre oluşturulan pazar segmenti gruplarına geçici olarak tahsis edecektir.
- Her rezervasyon günü için bir müşterinin günde yalnızca bir geçiş kontenjanı rezerve etmesine izin verilecektir.
- Esneklik hizmetlerinin (tarih değişikliği, transit geçişin öne alınması ve ikame gibi) tüm müşteriler için kullanılabilirliği sınırlandırılabilecektir. LoTSA programı kapsamındaki müşteriler için ise mevcut koşullar çerçevesinde erteleme ve transit geçişi öne alma hizmetleri de sınırlandırılabilecektir.
- 1 Eylül 2026 tarihinden itibaren geminin Kanal'a ulaşması gereken zamana 7 gün veya daha az gün kala Kanal geçiş rezervasyonunun iptal edilmesi ve geminin ilk rezervasyon tarihinden sonraki 7 gün içinde Kanal sularına ulaşmaması halinde geçerli iptal ücretine ek olarak geç iptal ek ücreti (tarife no. 1050.IBC9) uygulanacaktır.

Bu belge, 5070 sayılı Elektronik İmza Kanuna göre Güvenli Elektronik İmza ile İmzalanmıştır.

AKREDİTE ODA
Odamızda ISO 9001:2015 Kalite Yönetim Sistemi ve ISO 27001:2022 Bilgi Güvenliği Yönetim Sistemi Uygulanmaktadır
Odamızda Sıfır Atık Yönetimi Sistemi Uygulanmaktadır.

Evrakı Doğrulamak İçin : https://ebys.denizticaretodasi.org.tr/enVision.Sorgula/Belgedogrulama.aspx?eD=BSCF2FAB5
Bilgi için: Merve TÖNEL **Telefon:**
E-Posta: merve.tonel@denizticaretodasi.org.tr
Meclis-i Mebusan Caddesi No:22 34427 Fındıklı-Beyoğlu-İSTANBUL/TÜRKİYE
Tel : +90 (212) 252 01 30 (Pbx) **Faks:** +90 (212) 293 79 35 **KEP:** imeakdto@hs01.kep.tr
Web: www.denizticaretodasi.org.tr **E-mail:** iletisim@denizticaretodasi.org.tr

- 4 Eylül 2026 tarihinden itibaren rezervasyonu bulunan gemiler için Transit Süreleri tüm rezervasyonlu gemiler için 48 saat olarak uygulanacaktır.
- Panama Kanalı, Net Zero geçiş programını uygulamaya devam edecektir.

Bilgilerinize arz ve rica ederim

Saygılarımla,

e-imza
İsmet SALİHOĞLU
Genel Sekreter

Ek:

1- 27.08.2026 Tarih ve CAN(26)09 Sayılı ICS Duyurusu (2 Sayfa)
2- EK A-Transit Geçiş Rezervasyon (Booking) Sistemi (3 Sayfa)
3- EK B-Kanal Havzasında Azalan Yağışlara Yönelik İlave Önlemler (3 Sayfa)
4- EK C-Transit Geçiş Rezervasyon (Booking) Sisteminde Yapılan Değişiklikler (2 Sayfa)

Dağıtım:
Gereği:
- Tüm Üyeler (Odamız web sitesi)

Bu belge, 5070 sayılı Elektronik İmza Kanuna göre Güvenli Elektronik İmza ile İmzalanmıştır.

AKREDİTE ODA TOBB

Odamızda ISO 9001:2015 Kalite Yönetim Sistemi ve ISO 27001:2022 Bilgi Güvenliği Yönetim Sistemi Uygulanmaktadır

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Tel : +90 (212) 252 01 30 (Pbx) **Faks:** +90 (212) 293 79 35 **KEP:** imeakdto@hs01.kep.tr
Web: www.denizticaretodasi.org.tr **E-mail:** iletisim@denizticaretodasi.org.tr

Odamızda Sıfır Atık Yönetimi Sistemi Uygulanmaktadır. SIFIR ATIK

International Chamber of Shipping
Shaping the Future of Shipping

Walsingham House
35 Seething Lane
London
EC3N 4AH
Tel +44 20 7090 1460

info@ics-shipping.org | ics-shipping.org

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27 August 2026 **CAN(26)09**

TO: CANALS SUB-COMMITTEE

PANAMA CANAL INTRODUCES NEW TRANSIT AND BOOKING RULES DUE TO EL NIÑO

Action required: ***To note the temporary adjustments to transit reservation and booking rules introduced by the Panama Canal Authority due to climatic disruptions from the El Niño event. Members are advised to direct any questions or comments on the matter to the undersigned (melissande.cathelaz@ics-shipping.org).***

Members are advised to note that the Panama Canal Authority (ACP) have recently announced temporary modifications to the Transit Reservation (Booking) System, as the Canal continues to experience climatic disruptions, notably due to the current El Niño event, which is causing below-average rainfall and reduced water inflows to its reservoirs. These changes are intended to allocate slots in the most equitable manner as possible, across market segments and prioritise vessels that make more efficient use of water.

Based on ACP notices from 20 August and 25 August (attached as **Annexes A, B and C**), the modifications include, but are not limited, to the following:

- For booking dates beginning 4 September 2026, the number of daily slots at the Neopanamax Locks will be limited to nine, and the number of daily slots available at the Panamax Locks will be 25. More details about Booking Period 2 are available in annex B.
- The ACP will temporarily make selected auction slots available by market segment group, including cargo type, market segment characteristics, and vessel operating models.
- Only one booking slot will be allowed per customer per day during each booking date competition.
- The availability of flexibility services (such as change of date, transit in advance, and substitutions) may be limited for all customers. For LoTSA program customers, deferrals and advanced services may be also limited under the current circumstances.

- Effective September 1, 2026, the Canal will apply the late cancellation surcharge fee (tariff number 1050.IBC9) in addition to the applicable cancellation fee, when a booking is cancelled 7 days or less before the required arrival time and the vessel does not arrive at Canal waters within 7 days after the original booking date.
- Effective September 4, 2026, In Transit Times, for booked vessels will be modified to 48 hours to all booked vessels.
- The Canal will continue offering the Net Zero slot program.

Members can find details on the above modifications, and further modifications, in the attached annexes.

The Secretariat continues to monitor any further developments. Members are advised to direct any questions or comments to the undersigned (melissande.cathelaz@ics-shipping.org).

CAN(26)09 - Annex A - ADV-28-2026 Transit Reservation (Booking) System - Rule modifications

CAN(26)09 - Annex B - ADV-29-2026 Additional Measures to Address Reduced Precipitation in the Canal Watershed

CAN(26)09 - Annex C - ADV-30-2026 Modifications to the Transit Reservation (Booking) System

Melissande Cathélaz
Policy Adviser

Panama Canal Authority
Vice Presidency for Operations

Advisory to Shipping No. A-28-2026

August 20, 2026

TO: All Shipping Agents, Owners, and Operators

SUBJECT: Transit Reservation (Booking) System - Rule modifications

The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) continues to experience climatic disruptions due to the current El Niño event, which is causing below-average rainfall and reduced water inflows to its reservoirs. To help ensure reliable Canal operations and preserve the draft available to customers, the ACP is introducing temporary modifications to the Transit Reservation (Booking) System. These changes are intended to allocate slots in the most equitable manner as possible, across market segments and prioritize vessels that make more efficient use of water. The following measures will take effect on the dates indicated below.

Auctions methodology

Given the current climate conditions and to promote a more equitable allocation process, considering market composition, including cargo type, market segment characteristics, and vessel operating models, the ACP will temporarily make selected auction slots available by market segment group. Similarly to what was temporarily implemented on November 29, 2023, this method aims to provide additional opportunities for different market segment vessels. Effective August 21, 2026, for booking dates beginning September 4, 2026, auction slots designated for Neopanamax, Super and Regular vessels may be made available to vessels within specific market segments, organized into groups, as shown in the following table:

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
• Liquified Natural Gas • Liquified Petroleum Gas	• Dry Bulk • General Cargo • Others	• Full Container • Vehicle Carriers / RoRo • Refrigerated	• Chemical Tankers • Crude/Product Tankers

The ACP will announce the day of the week on which the auction slot will be made available to each group. The specific dates on which the groups (one or more) identified above may participate in the auctions will be determined based on the number of vessels awaiting transit within each group and will be communicated through the Projected Booking Slots Availability table, published daily.

Slot allocation

Similarly to what was temporarily implemented on December 15, 2023, this method aims to provide additional opportunities for different customers, only one booking slot will be allowed per customer per day during the competition as shown in the following table:

OP, August 20, 2026

Subject: Transit Reservation (Booking) System - Rule modifications

Vessel category	Effective date	For booking period 1 Starting on booking date	For booking period 1a Starting on booking date	For booking period 2 Starting on booking date
Regular and Super	August 21, 2026	November 19, 2026		September 4, 2026
Neopanamax	August 21, 2026		September 20, 2026	September 4, 2026

Under this new allocation procedure, the following rules will apply:

1. Customers that have already been awarded booking slots in previous periods, including Long Term Slot Allocation (LoTSA) and Net Zero for the same booking date, will not be allowed to obtain a slot during current competition, unless there are no additional competitors.
2. Customers that have already been awarded booking slots for the previous booking date, including LoTSA and Net Zero, will not be allowed to obtain a slot during the following booking date competition, unless there are no additional competitors.
3. The limit per customer does not apply to slots awarded through the auction process.
4. In the Neopanamax Locks, full container vessels with maximum TEU capacity will have priority to obtain a slot during competition. For vessels with the same TEU capacity, the Customer Ranking will be used as the tiebreaker criteria. Once a slot is assigned, customers will be allowed to swap or substitute the vessel with another vessel of the same or greater TEU capacity. Any customer preference submitted during the reservation slot allocation process will also be limited to vessels with the same or greater TEU capacity.
5. Unused slots from the Special Period for Super and Regular vessels for booking dates beginning November 20, 2026, will be carried over to Period 2.
6. Unused slots from the Special Period have already transferred to Period 1 for Super and Regular vessels for booking dates beginning September 5, 2026, to November 19, 2026, will be carried over to Period 2.
7. The transit conditions changes table published in Notice to Shipping N-07 will not apply until further notice.

Other announcements

To manage the current situation, additional modifications will be implemented and effective immediately:

1. The availability of flexibility services (such as change date, transit in advance, substitutions, etc.) may be narrowed down for all customers. For LoTSA program customers, deferrals and advanced services may be also limited under the current circumstances.
2. The Last-Minute service will be suspended until further notice. Furthermore, forfeited vessels must obtain a new slot to reschedule their transit.

Measures applicable in September

1. Effective September 1, 2026, the Canal will apply the late cancellation surcharge fee (tariff number 1050.IBC9) in addition to the applicable cancellation fee, when a booking is cancelled 7 days or less before

OP, August 20, 2026

Subject: Transit Reservation (Booking) System - Rule modifications

the required arrival time and the vessel does not arrive at Canal waters within 7 days after the original booking date.

2. Due to the reduction in number of daily transits and the modifications to slot allocation criteria, the monthly calculation and update of the Customer Ranking will be frozen. Therefore, the Customer Ranking to be published on September 1, 2026, will remain in effect and unchanged until further notice.

3. Effective September 4, 2026, In Transit Times, for booked vessels will be modified to 48 hours to all booked vessels. In case a booked vessel arrives at the first set of locks the date prior to its reserved transit date, the vessel will be deemed to have transited the Canal in compliance with the ITT if the vessel departs the last set of locks prior to 2400 hours on the date after the reserved transit date.

The Canal will continue offering the Net Zero slot program under the conditions published in Notice to Shipping N-07.

The weekly maximum limit for LoTSA slots, including limitations by market segment and direction, will remain unchanged. However, to maintain equitable access to slots for all customers, this limit may be adjusted in accordance with Canal capacity.

While the water deficit continues in the Canal watershed, the Transit Reservation (Booking) System remains the only way to guarantee a transit date. Vessels without a reservation may therefore face indefinite delays.

The Canal remains committed to closely monitoring water conditions and rainfall levels and to communicating any further adjustments in a timely manner, as circumstances allow.

For inquiries regarding these measures, please contact: operationservices@pancanal.com

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Boris Moreno Vásquez
Vice President for Operations

Panama Canal Authority
Vice Presidency for Operations

Advisory to Shipping No. A-29-2026

August 20, 2026

TO: All Shipping Agents, Owners, and Operators

SUBJECT: Additional Measures to Address Reduced Precipitation in the Canal Watershed

Despite the arrival of the rainy season in the Isthmus of Panama and the water-saving measures implemented by the Panama Canal Authority (ACP) in recent months to mitigate the adverse effects of the El Niño event, current watershed conditions continue to warrant additional preventive measures to support the long-term sustainability of Canal operations.

During the current hydrological year (May through August), cumulative rainfall across the Canal watershed has been 34% below the historical average, while watershed inflows have been 44% below their historical average for the same period, reflecting a substantially reduced hydrologic response despite the onset of the rainy season. Furthermore, forecasts indicate that the anticipated severity of the 2026-2027 El Niño event could further reduce precipitation and runoff during the remainder of the wet season.

The combination of these observed deficits and the forecast of a potentially severe 2026-2027 El Niño event raises concerns regarding water availability during the upcoming 2027 dry season (January to April). These conditions require vigilant monitoring and prudent water resource management to always ensure the reliable and sustainable operation of the Canal. Particularly during the 2023-2024 El Niño event, the Canal maintained full open and timely communications with agents, owners and operators on the existing hydrological conditions of the waterway, a practice that we maintain at all times regardless of its criticality, as these hydrological conditions, is an essential aspect of our mutual interest.

The measures described below are therefore being implemented to preserve service reliability, safeguard water resources for human consumption, and provide customers with timely and transparent information to support voyage planning and supply chain decisions.

Effective August 21, 2026, for booking dates beginning September 4, 2026, the number of daily slots available at the Neopanamax Locks will be adjusted to nine (9). Accordingly, only one (1) slot will be offered during Booking Period 2. Additionally, the number of daily slots available at the Panamax Locks will be adjusted to twenty-five (25). Accordingly, only one (1) slot will be offered to Regular vessels during Booking Period 2. Due to the reduction in available transit slots during Booking Period 2, Conditioned slot in the Neopanamax category will not be available.

OP, August 20, 2026

Subject: Additional Measures to Address Reduced Precipitation in the Canal Watershed

The following table summarizes daily slot availability by vessel category:

Effective August 21, 2026, for booking dates beginning September 4, 2026

Vessel Category	Special Period 730 - 366 days	LoTSA >90 days	Period 1 90 - 31 days	Period 1A 30 - 15 days	Period 2 14 - 8 days	Subtotal	Period 3 Auctions 7 - 2 days	TOTAL
Neopanamax	1	3	*	3	1	**8**	1	**9**
Supers	3		6		10	**19**	1	**20**
Regulars	2		1		1	**4**	1	**5**
Total	**6**	**3**	**7**	**3**	**12**	**31**	**3**	**34**

Moreover, effective September 1, 2026, for booking dates beginning September 15, 2026, the number of daily slots available at the Panamax Locks will be adjusted to twenty-three (23). Accordingly, eight (8) slots will be offered to Super vessels during Booking Period 2. During this condition, no more than nine (9) supers may be booked for transit per direction.

The following table summarizes daily slot availability by vessel category:

Effective September 1, 2026, for booking dates beginning September 15, 2026

Vessel Category	Special Period 730 - 366 days	LoTSA >90 days	Period 1 90 - 31 days	Period 1A 30 - 15 days	Period 2 14 - 8 days	Subtotal	Period 3 Auctions 7 - 2 days	TOTAL
Neopanamax	1	3	*	3	1	**8**	1	**9**
Supers	3		6		8	**17**	1	**18**
Regulars	2		1		1	**4**	1	**5**
Total	**6**	**3**	**7**	**3**	**10**	**29**	**3**	**32**

As per our booking and reservation regulations, in effect since November 24, 2023, and currently in effect, customers must use the booking and reservation options through the Transit Reservation (Booking) system, to reduce the possibility of extended delays, as a confirmed reservation is the only mechanism that guarantees transit date.

Additionally, based on the current level of Gatun Lake and the latest weather projections, the ACP will postpone until September 2, 2026, the maximum authorized draft of 14.63 meters (48.0 feet) TFW in the Neopanamax Locks, scheduled to become effective on August 26, 2026. Furthermore, the maximum authorized draft adjustment of 14.48 meters (47.5 feet) TFW, scheduled to become effective on September 3, 2026, will be postponed until October 1, 2026.

The ACP will closely monitor weather conditions, watershed inflows, and lake levels. Should additional operational adjustments become necessary, the ACP will timely update customers, addressing draft conditions, capacity levels and any other modification in existing rules and procedures, to assure

OP, August 20, 2026

Subject: Additional Measures to Address Reduced Precipitation in the Canal Watershed

reliability and provide information to support business decisions. As every event is unique and climate conditions could change more rapidly than anticipated, ACP will continue to strive to announce any future adjustments as far in advance as circumstances allow.

For inquiries regarding these measures, please contact: operationservices@pancanal.com

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Boris Moreno Vásquez
Vice President for Operations

Panama Canal Authority
Vice Presidency for Operations

CANAL DE PANAMÁ

3654-A (OP-I)
V. 29/03/2023

Advisory to Shipping No. A-30-2026

August 25, 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 provide greater clarity regarding existing rules and requirements. These revisions will prevent misunderstandings and unintended interpretations that could affect the transparency, consistency, and overall effectiveness of the booking process.

Therefore, effective immediately, the following changes will be implemented:

The paragraph in the Article 22, section “6. Booking Period 1A for Neopanamax Vessels” on page 6 of Notice to Shipping N07: “Priority will also be given to full container vessels when assigning slots carried over from Period 1 and slots that are cancelled or become available due to other reasons” will be replaced by the following paragraph “Slots that are cancelled or become available due to any reason will be allocated through a Special Competition in the following priority order, based on customer ranking: LNG, LPG, Car Carrier/RoRo and Full Containers”

The paragraph in the Article 22, section “12. Last Minute Transit Reservation” on page 11 of Notice to Shipping N07, regarding the requirements vessels must comply to be offered a Last Minute Transit Reservation: “Vessels that have tried to obtain a booking slot during any booking period and through an auction for a transit date; or” will be replaced by the following paragraph “Vessels that have tried to obtain a booking slot during any booking period by participating in a Tiebreaker or Special competition and through an auction for a transit date; or”

In the Advisory ADV-28-2026, the following paragraph “Customers that have already been awarded booking slots in previous periods, including Long Term Slot Allocation (LoTSA) and Net Zero for the same booking date, will not be allowed to obtain a slot during current competition, unless there are no additional competitors” will be replaced by the following paragraph: “Customers that have already been awarded booking slots in previous periods, through competition, a first come first served slot allocation option that becomes available upon the conclusion of the competition, Long Term Slot Allocation (LoTSA) or Net Zero for the same booking date, will not be allowed to obtain a slot during current competition, unless there are no additional competitors.” Additionally, in the same Advisory, “Customers that have previously been awarded booking slots on the previous booking date, including LoTSA and Net Zero, will not be allowed to obtain a slot during the following booking date competition, unless there are no additional competitors”, will be replaced by the following paragraph: “Customers that have previously been awarded booking slots on any booking date through competition, a first come first served slot allocation option that becomes available upon the

OP, August 25, 2026

Subject: Modifications to the Transit Reservation (Booking) System

conclusion of the competition, LoTSA or Net Zero, will not be allowed to obtain a slot during the previous or following booking date competition, unless there are no additional competitors."

Furthermore, for a NetZero slot, Swaps are permitted only between vessels that meet the same eligibility criteria used for the original slot allocation, including the same PCUMS tonnage. In contrast, for a Substitution, the vessel receiving the slot may have a PCUMS tonnage equal to or greater than that of the vessel originally allocated the slot.

For any further inquiries regarding these rules, please contact: operationservices@pancanal.com.

ORIGINAL SIGNED
Boris Moreno Vásquez
Vice President for Operations