



Client Advisory

April 22, 2019

Vessel Weight Limitations - Panama Canal

Dear Valued Customer,

The Panama Canal Authority recently announced a reduction to the Maximum Authorized Draft to 13.41 meters (44 feet) for vessels entering the into the canals Neopanamax locks, effective **April 30, 2019**. This is in response to a prolonged drought which has severely depleted the water level of Lake Gatun, a main source of water used in canal operations.

What does this mean for my cargo?

Though weight limitations will vary by carrier, vessel, and port of loading, prepare for reduction in allowable cargo weight, particularly for twenty foot containers. Overweight containers may face spot rejections or roll-over on specific sailings depending on vessel capacity.

Though the Panama Canal Authority maintains the right to refuse entry to any vessel over the maximum draft, actual enforcement may be lenient if water levels permit at the time of vessel passage.

For additional information, please follow the below links:

[Panama Canal Authority Advisory](#)

[Severe Dry Season Sees Fifth Drought Reduction for Panama Canal New Locks](#)

Should you have any questions regarding this update, please contact your Customer Service Representative.

Sincerely yours,

OEC Group

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