

CIRCULAR

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CIRCULAR NO. 19/03

TO MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Dear Member:

PANAMA CANAL – SHIPBOARD OIL POLLUTION EMERGENCY PLANS

Further to Circular No. 16/03 of November 7, 2003, the Panama Canal Authority has decided to postpone implementation of its regulations requiring the submission of Shipboard Oil Pollution Plans (PCSOPEPs) by vessels entering Canal waters. This follows consultation with a range of international shipping industry bodies, including the International Group of P&I Clubs, the International Chamber of Shipping and INTERTANKO.

Members are therefore requested to note that the January 1, 2004, start-date is no longer applicable, although amended PCSOPEP regulations are likely to be introduced at some unspecified future date.

The Managers will, of course, keep Members fully informed of all subsequent developments on this subject.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Joseph E.M. Hughes". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Joseph E.M. Hughes, Chairman & CEO
Shipowners Claims Bureau, Inc., Managers for
THE AMERICAN CLUB