2015 - NOTICE TO SHIPPING #8

NIAGARA REGION
WELLAND CANAL

VESSEL INTERFACE RESTRICTIONS AT LOCKS

Mariners are advised of the following conditions regarding vessel interfaces (ie. Crew changes, chandlers and ship board service providers) at the Locks in the Welland Canal effective as per the date of this notice.

With the implementation of our modernization project and Marine Security changes, in Niagara access will not be permitted or will be restricted at certain locks, as noted below.

Lock 1:
   Interfaces permitted, traffic dependant.

Lock 2:
   Interfaces permitted, traffic dependant.

Lock 3:
   Continues with no interfaces.

Flight Locks:
   Continue with no ship chandler interfaces. Ship personnel can embark/disembark at Locks 4 and 5. No interfaces at Lock 6 continues.

Lock 7:
   Interfaces permitted, traffic dependant. Note that the access via West side pedestrian gate will be discontinued.

Lock 8:
   Interfaces permitted, traffic dependant.

There are no changes to current practices for interfaces at Wharfs, Leased Wharfs and Approach Walls in the Welland Canal.

SLSMC understands that certain “service providers” and/or ship’s crew members may require access to locks that have restrictions or “no interfaces permitted” in special circumstances. In the future any requests for access will be entertained provided sufficient notification is given to our Operations Control Centre.

It is compulsory for any person gaining access to our locks to have a valid government issued identification card with photo. It is also compulsory that the ship consents to the embarking, disembarking or visit. If the ship does not consent, or if marine security and health and safety regulations are not respected, the interface will not be permitted and the persons present will be required to leave the lock immediately.
Persons presenting themselves at our locks will have to present themselves at the access gate 15 minutes before the arrival of the vessel. On locks equipped with Hands Free Mooring this rule will be strictly enforced. These persons will then be permitted access to the lock prior to the arrival of their ship and to wait in a designated zone. Mariners with valid identification cards are able to proceed unescorted while in the restricted areas to the designated holding area. Other visitors embarking or disembarking are required to be escorted to and from the designated holding area. For safety and security reasons, persons and vehicles must remain in this zone and will not be permitted to circulate outside of it. Access to lock buildings is not permitted.

In addition, there is an area marked by the yellow line near the ship (1 metre). The persons and vehicles that interface with the ship must remain outside this line and in the designated zone until lock personnel give permission to enter under their supervision. The permission to enter this zone will only be given when the ship will be properly secured in position.

As a reminder related to vessel interfaces at the Welland Canal
Vessels must request the interface by facsimile (905) 641- 4632, phone (905) 6411932 x5450 or x5454 or by VHF radio prior to each interface at our locks. This request must be provided in advance to allow approval by the Canal Shift Supervisor on duty prior to the interface.

For crew changes and other persons embarking/disembarking the vessel

The following information is required in the request for embarking, disembarking and visits:
- date,
- name of ship,
- name of ship’s captain,
- the agent or delivery company that will transport the persons,
- the lock where the interface will take place,
- estimated date and time of arrival at this lock,
- the names of all the persons who will embark/disembark/visit

A person presenting himself/herself at the access gate of the lock without a prior formal interface request will be required to provide as a minimum the above information. The person requesting access must also allow for extra time to process the approval of the entry before gaining access to the lock.

St. Catharines, Ontario
October 7, 2015