

Ship backlog at drought-hit Panama Canal

A drought affecting the Panama Canal has resulted in a backlog of more than 200 ships, with vessels waiting weeks to cross after the authorities reduced transits in a bid to conserve water



Ship crossings

Reduced to 32 per day, down from average of 36 during normal conditions

Draft limitations

Maximum draft level – distance between waterline and bottom of ship – reduced from 15.24m to 13.41m

Canal revenue

Restrictions could lead to loss of \$200 million in next fiscal year

Wait to enter canal is roughly 20 days. Some ship owners are seeking alternative routes while others pay surcharges that will, in turn, increase cost of goods they are transporting

