



I. Farwell to the Year 2011...

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Friends and colleagues,

As the year is coming to its end we like to take the opportunity to thank you for your support and confidence you have shown to us throughout the year 2011. We hope that the information provided in our Newsletters have been valuable for you. As you have noted, our intention is not to write newsletter just to fill a sheet of paper, the intention is to keep you updated on developments and important changes whenever it is necessary. We will continue like this also in the next year.

For now we wish you and your families Merry Christmas, a Happy and prosperous New Year 2012. We are looking forward to continue our work together in the New Year.

II. Ashura Holidays early January 2012.

Please consider that beginning from the 2nd week of January a large number of pilgrims will travel again to Kerbala. The official authorities expect more than 10 Mio pilgrims during the 2nd and 3rd week of January. Therefore, especially around the city of Kerbala and on the entire main road to/from Kerbala no cargo movements will be possible as all the roads will be blocked. Roads to/from Diwaniyah and Missan will also be affected and will partly be closed during the peak time of the holiday.

III. Security Situation in Iraq.

As you know already from the media, the last US troops left Iraq already. The overall security is now again in the hands of the Iraqi Army and the Iraqi Police. Unfortunately, during the last couple of days the number of attacks all over the country increased again. We expect during the next weeks and month a more fragile security situation and therefore curfews and traffic bans on short notice.

IV. Request for legalized documents:

The Iraqi customs insists on legalized commercial invoices and certificates of origin regardless which entry point is used:

airfreight (e.g. Erbil*, Baghdad, Basrah), sea freight (Umm Qasr) or by truck (Zakho*, Trebil, Safwan).

Here we do recommend arranging the legalization in time to avoid any delay and customs penalties.

(*) Not always requested but we do assume this will change in the near future. Please feel free to contact us prior shipment to get the latest information.

V. Border situation

a.) Al Karameh / Trebil (Jordan/Iraqi border)

Border is working well but subject to absolute correctness and availability of all original (legalized) documents such as Certificate of Origin and Commercial Invoice.

b.) Syrian/Iraqi borders

Due to the political situation we are not using the Syrian gateway right now.

c.) Habour/Zakho (Turkish/Iraqi border)

The traffic between Turkey and Iraq has again increased. Due to this, there is currently a waiting time of approx 10-12 days (in and out). Therefore, the trucking rates are again increasing. Turkish and Iraqi Governments have agreed to implement two additional border points. Further details will be provided once available.

d.) Umm Qasr Port

The port is currently congested due to a large backlog of cargo. Waiting time for container Vessels is up to one week, for break bulk Vessels subject to draft and cargo between 3-5 days.

e.) Safwan/Abdali Commercial Border Point (Kuwait/Iraqi border)

Due to the recent political disputes the border clearing is taking longer as usual. Please call us for specific information on this routing.

Yours faithfully,

M.G. International Transports GmbH