

NEWSLETTER for Shipments to Iraq

19th March 2012

**M.G.
International
Transports GmbH®**



Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Friends and colleagues,

We are pleased to provide you with our updated Newsletter for Shipments to Iraq. In case of any specific request, please feel free to contact us.

I. Arab Summit in Baghdad

From 23rd until 26th March 2012 the Arab Summit will take place in Baghdad. Due to security reasons the access to Baghdad International Airport (BIAP) will be very limited. We expect that from 20th until 28th March 2012 customs at the airport will be closed and no pick up or delivery of airfreight cargo will be possible. Therefore we do not recommend sending urgently needed cargo by airfreight to BIAP during this period of time.

Furthermore during the summit there will also be a curfew for trucks and cargo movements within Baghdad. This will delay the delivery of goods all over Baghdad.

II. Demonstration / Holidays in Basrah

On 19th March there will be a demonstration of the "Al Sadr Party" in Basrah. Therefore most of the governmental offices will be closed and we expect a curfew.

March 21st is an official holiday in the southern parts of Iraq.

III. Nawroz holidays in Iraqi Kurdistan

Nawroz holidays will be from 20th until 25th March 2012 all over Iraqi Kurdistan. The peak days are the 21st and 22nd March 2012.

IV. Import of Oilfield equipment via Kuwait not allowed anymore.

The Iraqi Ministry of Transportation has announced that all materials and equipment related to Petroleum Operations must be imported through the port of UmQasr and not the Safwan border (Kuwait). 1st June 2012 will be the deadline for permitting the entrance of any already contracted and imported materials and equipment through the Safwan border compound.

V. Voc (Verification of Conformity)

Please be informed that the VoC Procedure, which we already reported about, is scheduled to be implemented for Northern Iraq as of 1st April 2012.

VI. New Regulations for shipments to loC's via Southern entrance points

Please consider that with immediate effect the Ministry of Oil has implemented new requirements for how to issue the shipping and commercial documents and how to deliver them to SOC. Please contact us for further details.

VII. New Regulations of KRG Authorities for shipments to loC's in Iraqi Kurdistan.

According to an official letter of the "Iraqi Kurdistan Region Council of Ministers, Ministry of Natural Resources" the importation and exportation of oilfield supplies is not permitted at all without an approval by the Ministry.

VIII. 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 current political situation we are not using the Syrian gateway right now. The unstable situation inside Syria has also had an impact on the Turkey/Syria and Jordan/Syria borders for cargo headed for Syria as well as for cargo in transit. Therefore the Turkish and Egyptian governments have signed a general agreement to install a regular ferry connection from Mersin to Alexandria. Later on Aqaba / Jordan shall also be connected. However no schedule is available as per today.



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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.

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 than usual. Furthermore the Iraqi authorities only issue a very limited number of Visas for Drivers therefore the number of Kuwaiti trucks is very limited.

Yours faithfully,

M.G. International Transports GmbH

