



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. VoC Documents

VoC (Verification of Conformity)

As we informed you already, the VoC documents are required for all imports to the private sector or for governmental contracts without a duty exemption status. Currently only Bureau Veritas is authorized to issue such VoC documents.

VoC in Iraqi Kurdistan

Since May 12th the Iraqi Kurdistan authorities have also implemented the VoC process.

Therefore we strongly recommend that you obtain clear information from your client in Iraq if his contract requires a VoC inspection or not. In case a VoC is required and the cargo arrives at the border without a VoC, the Iraqi Customs will not allow the shipment to enter. For further information please check our website under [Customer informations](#).

II. Legalization of Documents

The Iraqi authorities have implemented new procedures for the legalization of documents. According to these new procedures, in addition to the Commercial Invoice and the Certificate of Origin, the following documents also require legalization:

- Bill of Lading legalized by the Consular Section at the Iraqi Embassy.
- Insurance certificate legalized by the consular section at the Iraqi Embassy.
- Certificate of Inspection legalized by the Consular Section at the Iraqi Embassy.

These instructions only apply for goods exported to the private sector or to the Iraqi Ministries and State Companies through a third party (mediator) and do not include goods exported directly to the Iraqi Ministries and State Companies.

Remark: Above is the official wording of the Commercial Section of the Iraqi Embassy in Berlin/Germany. Please note that so far the Chamber of Commerce is not allowed to legalize Bills of Lading. In Germany the legalization process will be: Notary Office, Regional Court, District Court, German-Arab Chamber of Commerce, Iraqi Consulate. Please consider that the legalization process will take a minimum of 2-3 weeks and therefore this new application can really create difficulties. For further information please check our website under [Customer informations](#).

III. New Regulations for shipments to IoC's via Southern entrance points

As already reported in our last newsletter, there is a new procedure for the process of documents in place for shipments via southern Iraqi entrance points. Each of the Iraqi State Oil Companies now has a slightly different procedure. Therefore, please contact us for further details.

IV. New Regulations of KRG Authorities for shipments to IoC's in Iraqi Kurdistan.

In our last newsletter we have already reported about a changing in the regulation for shipments to/from IoC's working in the Iraqi Kurdistan region. In principal imports/exports to/from IoC's in Iraqi Kurdistan require a dedicated import/export permit issued by the "Iraqi Kurdistan Region Council of Ministers, Ministry of Natural Resources" office. The importation and exportation of oilfield supplies is not permitted at all without an approval by the Ministry.

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

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

Due to the implementation of the VoC Inspection via the Ibrahim Khalil border point there is already a queue of approx 600 trucks waiting to enter but not having the proper documents in place. We expect that this queue will increase within the next days.

In principal the traffic between Turkey and Iraq (in particular the Iraqi Kurdistan region) is still increasing.

So far the actual waiting time, without considering the trucks having insufficient papers, is approx 10-12 days on a round trip basis. The freight rates are still increasing due to the long waiting time at the border.

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

