



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. Cancellation of Levy Exemption / Duty Exemption Approval**

Please note that based on a decision of Iraqi Council of Ministers the previous procedure of the Duty and Tax Exemption has been IMPLEMENTED again.

Therefore a customs clearing under so called "Commitment letters" is not any longer possible. For all shipments a valid Duty and Tax Exemption document is now again required.

## **II. Import License (GOVERNMENTAL Sector)**

Starting from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2012 also the governmental sector has to obtain an import license for each and every shipment / contract.

Only current shipments which are already inside of Iraq e.g. Umm Qassr port or Baghdad Airport and for which the documents are already with the customs authorities can still be customs cleared without an import license.

For all other shipments, even if the goods are already on Iraqi territory but the documents are not yet with the customs authorities, a valid import license is required.

Therefore a valid import license is required for the private and the governmental sector without any exception.

The application can be done through the Chambers of Commerce / Industries, but the final certification has to be done by the new department Commercial Services in the State Company for Fairs and Commercial Services in the Ministry of Trade, Baghdad.

Please contact us to get the Application Form and a draft of an Import License

## **III. Licensed customs brokers**

Please note that for temporary imports the importer must appoint a licensed customs broker. This is also applicable for the governmental sector e.g. Ministry of Electricity. Without a fully licensed customs broker, it is not possible anymore to clear temporary shipments (in or outbound).

## **IV. Erbil International Fair**

Also this year, we are participating at the "Erbil International Fair" from 15<sup>th</sup> till 18<sup>th</sup> October 2012. Please visit us at Hall No. 1 Stand No. E 30. [www.eif\\_expo.com](http://www.eif_expo.com)

## **V. Baghdad International Fair**

We are also participating again at the "BIF 2012" which will take place at the Fairground in Baghdad from 01<sup>st</sup> till 10<sup>th</sup> November 2012. Please visit us at Hall No. 5.

## **VI. VoC Documents**

From 01.10.2012 on Bureau Veritas will issue CoC ( Certificates of Conformity, for listed goods ) and CoI ( Certificates of Inspection – for not VoC – regulated, payments via Central Bank Iraq ) only. – Inspection Certificates ( IC ) for non-regulated cargo will no longer be issued.

For goods destined to the KRG region an exemption letter can be obtained.

## **VII. Legalization of Documents**

We like to mention again the documentary requirements for shipments to Iraq. Please consider that, if the documents are not in order, cargo can't be customs cleared and gets stacked at the entrance points. The following documents are required:

- 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 information.

## 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.

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

So far the current waiting time, without considering the trucks having insufficient papers, is approx 3-4 days for entering Iraq and approx 6-7 days for departure from Iraq.

### d.) **Umm Qasr Port**

At the moment, there is no major congestion for berthing and discharging of Vessels at Umm Qasr and Khor Al Zubair port. The main delays occur due to the complicated customs clearing process, in particular for Oil and Gas Equipment.

### 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 strongly limited number of Visa for Drivers therefore the number of Kuwaiti trucks is strongly limited.

Yours faithfully,

**M.G. International Transports GmbH**