



I. Security Situation

Still unchanged the security situation is very difficult all over the country. The last incidents happened in the areas like Mosul, Kirkuk and Baghdad but also recently in Basrah have again increased and in addition to this Erbil has been appalled by several bomb attacks recently.

The security situation inside of the port of Umm Qasr is still difficult. All agents are still asked to provide guards in order to protect their cargo.

Furthermore, certain areas of Iraq are facing curfews. During the ASHORA period clear restrictions in the movement of trucks are expected.

II. Ashora

Official Ashora holiday in Iraq is on 14th November. Ashora holiday in southern Iraq where the holy places are located is from 11th till 14th November. The period has started on 5th November and is expected to finish around 23th December 2013. During the holidays all ministries, governmental offices and customs will be closed. During the whole period the operation in southern region will slow down. The southern Ports will continue the discharging works but with limited resources / shifts.

III. Erbil Airport

The Situation in Kurdistan is calm & Ashora period is not going to effect the region except the Ashora Holiday on 14th November.

IV. Jordan Transit Route

Aqaba Container Terminal operations have become more smoothly. The effects of the summer congestion and backlog of August are decreasing.

Currently 250 trucks are crossing the border daily. Delays are occurring on the Iraqi side towards Jordan only due to the traffic caused by additional inspection at the border.

V. Umm Qasr Route

The Ashora period dates are as follows:

- 05-11-2013 – 1. Day of Ashora and New Year
- 11-11-2013 – Partial Holiday in southern Iraq
Most of the Offices will be closed!
- 14-11-2013 – Official Ashora Holiday
- 23-12-2013 : Official End of Ashora Holiday

During Ashora Period from 5th November to 24th December the security issues and check points will become more strict. Offices will be opened but only half of the staff will be available. Truck movement will be clearly delayed.

Trucks from central and northern Iraq have to expect difficulties while entering the South Region during this period.

VI. Turkish Route

The waiting time ex Habur (Turkish border) to Ibrahim Khalil (Iraqi border) has increased up to 10-12 days due to a long waiting queue the length of 50 kilometers. This has caused truck shortage & extreme high trucking rates. The waiting times ex Ibrahim Khalil towards Habur are around 5-6 days. VOC inspection is still running well. Still the Syrian crisis has no effect on the current traffic to the Iraqi border. For cargo via Turkey, Turkish trucks are only allowed to drive within Kurdish region. Only Iraqi trucks are allowed to deliver within central and southern Iraq.

VII. Baghdad Route

The current situation in Baghdad will become more strict because of Ashora. Pilgrims from all over Iraq are expected to march towards Karbala. Therefore main roads will be blocked. Most of the employees of governmental sector are intending to participate too. During the official holiday all departments and directorates will be closed. The points of entry except Trebil and Kurdish region will be closed, too. Main days of Ashora will start 5th November and will finish around 15th November. In order not to block the pilgrims main roads will be closed. The movement will be difficult and most of the operations will be effected. Baghdad Airport will receive the shipments as usual but the delivery to end users and the Ministries will be effected. Due to closing of the main roads it might be difficult to reach Baghdad Airport. Generally the daily operations will be limited during Ashora period.

VIII. Safwan Border

The Kuwait Iraq Border at Safwan is still closed for all shipments related to the Ministry of Oil (MOO) and the Ministry of Electricity (MOE).

Also cargo needed by IOCs are not allowed to pass the border (Shipments belonging to MOO, MOE, direct or indirect are not allowed to enter).

Safwan Border can be used for the private sector.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours faithfully,
M.G. International Transports GmbH