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**M.G. INTERNATIONAL**

SINCE 1891



# Newsletter for shipments to Iraq

December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013

*Dear Clients, Partners and Friends,*

*first of all, we like to take the opportunity to thank all of you for your support, assistance and confidence throughout this year. There are only a few days to go and 2014 is already knocking on the door. We wish Merry Christmas / Seasons Greetings and a happy and successful year 2014 to all of you. Below you will find the last Newsletter for this year. We hope that our Newsletters are helpful and contain valuable information for you.*

## **I. Security Situation**

The security situation is still unchanged and it is difficult all over the country. Deliveries to areas like Mosul, Baghdad, Kirkuk require special attention.

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

Furthermore, certain areas and cities are facing travel restrictions and curfews. During the ASHORA period restrictions in the movement of trucks are expected – especially at the last days of ASHORA.

## **II. Ashora**

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
- 25-12-2013 : Official End of Ashora Holiday

Particular during the peak time of Ashora, 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.

As per current situation several roads around Karbala are blocked since 15<sup>th</sup> Dec up to 25<sup>th</sup> Dec. It is not possible to deliver cargo to this area during this period.

## **III. Erbil Airport**

The Situation in Kurdistan is calm & Ashora period does not affect the region.

## **IV. Jordan Transit Route**

Aqaba Container Terminal operations are running smoothly. In average still 250 trucks are crossing the border daily. Delays are occurring due to ASHORA and the blocked roads at Kerbala region.

## **V. Umm Qassr Route**

During Ashora Period from 5<sup>th</sup> November to 25<sup>th</sup> December the security issues in the port as well as on the roads in the southern region are more strict.

Offices are opened but only half of the staff is available. Truck movement is delayed and particular Trucks from central and northern Iraq are facing difficulties entering the South Region during this period. In addition from the 19<sup>th</sup> till 25<sup>th</sup> Dec the work load will again be reduced due to lack of manpower. Port and Customs will work with limited resources.

## **VI. Turkish Route**

The waiting time ex Habur (Turkish border) to Ibrahim Khalil (Iraqi border) has decreased to 2-4 days which is a regular period. The waiting times ex Ibrahim Khalil towards Habur are around 5-6 days. The rates are still on a very high level. VOC inspection is still running well. So far the Syrian crisis has not affected the cargo traffic. 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 is now more strict because of Ashora. Pilgrims from all over Iraq are marching towards Karbala. Therefore main roads are blocked. Most of the employees of the governmental sector are participating. During the official holiday all departments and directorates are closed. The 1<sup>st</sup> of January is an official holiday. Baghdad Airport will receive cargo but deliveries to end users and Ministries are affected. Due to closing of the main roads it is difficult to reach Baghdad Airport. Generally the daily operations are limited for the next days.

## **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 is 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**