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Newsletter for shipments to Iraq

March 14th, 2014

Dear Clients, Partners and Friends,

Below you will find the 3rd Newsletter for this year informing you briefly about **the holidays / current security situation / customs regulations and border situations in Iraq:**

Upcoming Holidays of Iraq:

14th March – Birthday of Mustafa Barzani (only Kurdish region)

16th March – Halabja Comemoration Day (only Kurdish region)

21st March – Newroz (whole Iraq)

20th March – 23rd March –
Newroz (only Kurdish region)

Please note that from 20th March 2014 upto 23rd March 2014 we will have Newroz Holidays at the Kurdish Region. During this period all Offices, Ministries and Authorities will be slowed down. Also the Customs Clearance at the Turkish-Iraqi Border and at Erbil airport will be closed. Only medical Cargo and dangerous Goods Cargo will be cleared at the border points.

First Working Day after the Holidays will be 24th March 2014.

9th April – Liberation Day (only Kurdish region)

Current Security Situation in Iraq:

The overall security situation in Fallujah and Ramadi area is still very difficult and fragile.

Current Hotspots are Ramadi, Falluja, Mosul, suburbs of Baquba and Baiji. The vulnerable cities are Baghdad, Baquba, Sammara, Baiji, Tikrit and suburbs of Hilla and Mussaib. Please contact us for detailed information.

Erbil Airport:

At the moment all operations are running smoothly. During Newroz holidays between 20th and 23rd March operations and customs procedures will be stopped –

except for medical cargo and dangerous goods cargo.

Baghdad Airport & Umm Qasr Seaport:

All operations are running smoothly.

Customs will be closed due to Newroz holiday on 21st March.

Route via Jordan:

Currently approx 100 trucks cross the Jordan-Iraqi Border per daily.

Current waiting times at the border are approx. 1-2 Days. The majority of the cargo will be transshipped from Jordan to Iraqi trailers at the border which causes delays and additional costs.

In order to reach Baghdad safely most of the trucks have to use alternative routes e.g. via Kerbala, which caused increase of the transit and higher freight rates. Shortage of fuel en route is very often an issue. We strongly recommend that you insure your goods against SRCC risks.

Route via Turkey:

Currently approx. 1000 trucks cross the Turkish-Iraqi border daily.

Due to Newroz Holidays the border staff will slow down the procedures during 20th upto 23rd of March 2014.

Current waiting times on the route ex Turkey to Iraq are approx. 2-3 days – and ex Iraq to Turkey approx. 8-9 days.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours faithfully,

M.G. International Transports GmbH