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M.G. INTERNATIONAL
SINCE 1891



YOUR RELIABLE PARTNER FOR SHIPMENTS TO IRAQ

June 18th , 2018 NEWSLETTER

Dear Clients, Partners and Friends,

we are pleased to update you on the current situation in Iraq as follows:

1. Latest News

► Demonstrations in Iraq

Since a few days demonstrations in various cities all over Iraq are taking place. PM Al-Abadi visited Basra a few days ago. However, demonstrations are still ongoing in all major cities, particular in the southern part. Recently the demonstration blocked Umm Qassar Port Main Gate and the road towards the port. The work inside the port continued but no cargo could leave the port for several days. Internet and phone conversation are partly out of order. Water and Electricity supply is limited.

In general security situation is volatile. Road blocks and curfews are implemented partly without pre-notice. The delivery to certain destinations including oil field, power plants etc. is difficult and sometimes only possible with delays.

► UMQ "Mid" Port

As already reported in our previous newsletter from June 1st 2018 all Government Shipments must be customs cleared from Mid Port Customs at Umm Qassar Port.

Mid Port Customs location is in the north part of Umm Qassar Port (behind jetties 13, 14 and 15)

In case of arrival to any other jetty at Umm Qassar Port it is required to arrange for a physical shifting/transfer of cargo from incoming jetty to Mid Port Customs Area for Customs Clearance. Besides the cargo transfer, it is also required to arrange for a transfer of Customs Document from e.g. North Customs to Mid Customs. Due to the new regulations the work came almost to a standstill. Since July 5th new instructions are in place.

Mid Customs will clear governmental shipments, even if cargo has been stored elsewhere in the North Port, without physical shifting to Mid Customs, as long as goods arrived prior to July 1st.

All cargo with arrival to Umm Qassar after July 1st is required either to be discharged at Mid Port upon arrival or to be shifted from arrival position to Mid Port/Customs for customs clearing.

2. Border situation

► Ibrahim Khalil border

Security situation is stable. Border gates are open. The waiting times are around 2-4 days. Import regulations via the Kurdish entry points (Ibrahim Khali Customs, Erbil airport and Sulaimaniyah airport) have become more strict in regard to the quality control procedure. Subject to the kind of cargo and the receiver a **pre-shipment inspection certificate** (either Col or CoC), based on the **Consignment Based Conformity Assessment (CBCA) Program for KRG** regulations, is mandatory. For the KRG region only Messrs INTERTEK is authorized to issue such certificates.

► Jordanian/Iraqi border

The border gates are open. Operation is running smoothly. Mainly goods such as foodstuff and local Jordanian Products are imported through this gateway for the time being.

► Saudi Arabian/Iraqi border

The border gates are open. As per now no obstacles are registered.



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3. Airfreight

► Courier Shipments

All cargo, including cargo shipments by courier companies require a proper customs clearing at the relevant customs airports e.g. Baghdad or Basra.

► Baghdad/Basrah Airport

Airport operations are running smoothly and no obstacles are registered.

► Erbil Airport

Airport operations are running smoothly. Regular passenger and partly full cargo flights are available. However, due to the high demand of aircargo, a proper pre-booking is required.

4. Ocean freight

Umm Qassr/Khor Al Zubair Seaport

Port operations are running smoothly and no obstacles are registered.

Mersin/Iskenderun seaport

Port operations are running smoothly and no obstacles are registered.

5. Overland Transport

RoRo Ferry Trieste-Mersin and Route via Balkan

Cargo movements via Trieste-Mersin RoRo Ferry are running smoothly and no obstacles are registered.

6. Holidays.

Most likely "Eid al Adha" holidays will be from August 16th till August 25th.

Thank you for your attention.
Yours sincerely,
M.G. International Transports GmbH

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