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M.G. INTERNATIONAL
SINCE 1891



YOUR RELIABLE PARTNER FOR SHIPMENTS TO IRAQ

Aug 22nd, 2016 NEWSLETTER

Dear Clients, Partners and Friends,
we are pleased to update you on the current situation in Iraq as follows:

1. Latest News

► New requirements for deliveries to plants, stations and oil fields

The Iraqi security authorities have announced that from now on all trucks which carry cargo for plants, stations and oil fields need to be accompanied by security permissions to pass the final city checkpoints. Because the permission procedure might take 5-7 days the application has to be sent to the regional command operation by the consignee once truck, driver and cargo details are available. Based on the provided details the permission will be issued. Depending on the duration of the permission procedure additional charges could occur.

► Turkish Airlines launched flights between Gaziantep and Erbil

The Turkish state-owned airline has announced that from 05th Aug on roundtrip flights started between Erbil and Gaziantep Airport and will be operated twice a week.

► Central government's intention to extend Safra / Adhaim customs checkpoints

The Iraqi central government in Baghdad is intending to extend the customs checkpoints in Safra / Adhaim region to speed up the procedures and to shorten the waiting times for trucks. More than 500 trucks arrive at these checkpoints daily. During weekends and holidays the waiting times for trucks can increase up to 3-5 days.

► Additional customs procedures at Abo Ghraib customs for imports via KRG

The procedure which started in May is almost applicable for all shipments which entered Iraq via KRG borders and which final destination is Central or Southern Iraq. Those shipments are checked at Safra / Adhaim customs checkpoints and afterwards escorted by customs convoys to Abo Ghraib customs where the shipments have to be customs cleared as per current Iraqi customs tariff. At Abo Ghraib customs in Baghdad the customs staff check if import duties and taxes have been paid

at KRG entry points as per current tariff. If not, the importer must pay the difference at Abo Ghraib customs. Afterwards, the trucks will be released to move on towards final destination.

► Road blockades due to Islamic New Year and Ashura

This year, Islamic New Year is expected to be on 02nd Oct and Ashura days are expected for 11th/12th Oct. Because the masses of pilgrims will move from central and southern Iraq towards Kerbela region road blockades around Baghdad and Kerbela will start around 01st/02nd Oct and are expected to be lifted around 14th/15th Oct. Official details will be provided once announced by the central government.

► Upcoming Holidays

13th to 16th Sep – Eid al Adha
02nd Oct – Islamic new year
11th/12th Oct – Ashura days



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2. Security Situation

Generally the situation in Iraq became more stable the last weeks. The Iraqi army as well as the Peshmerga troops are currently leading a military operation to free Mosul step by step. In several areas the militia is assisting the Iraqi army, too. The roads between KRG and Central Iraq as well as between Southern Iraq are currently free of obstacles. As per now and after intensive security checks – sending shipments to Airports and Seaports is still possible.

3. Border situation

Turkish / Iraqi border

After last weekend's suicide bombing attack in Gaziantep as well as after several car bombing attacks to different Police stations in south-eastern Turkey the Turkish army has tightened the security measures and has started local military operations. The security situation is generally stable. Some minor clashes between PKK and Turkish army in south-eastern Turkey have been

reported. After the coup attempt mid of July the military operations and clashes slowed down generally. Till now cargo movements are not affected by the incidents. The border gates are permanently open. The current waiting time ex Turkey towards Iraq and ex Iraq towards Turkey is 2-3 days.

Jordanian/Iraqi border

No improvement or development on the security situation registered locally. Therefore, we still do not offer transports crossing this route until further notice.

4. Airfreight

Erbil & Sulaymaniyah Airport

Currently, operations are running smoothly. Regular passenger and cargo flights are available. Please check the possibilities as per your requirements with us case by case.

Baghdad International Airport (BIAP) and Basrah Airport

BIAP and Basrah Airport are working normally. Regular

passenger and cargo flights are available. Please check the possibilities as per your requirements with us case by case.

5. Umm Qassar / Khor Al Zubair ports

The security measures at both ports are tight and the ports are considered as safe. Generally the operation is running smoothly.

6. Mersin / Iskenderun seaport

Port operations are running smoothly as usual.

7. Overland Transport

Cargo movements towards Iraq via southeast Europe as well as via Trieste-Mersin Ferry are running well. No obstacles are registered.

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

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