



Siegen/Germany, 21th July 2009.

## Newsletter for shipments to Iraq

Dear clients,

### **I.) Election in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region**

Please note that election for the Kurdish Regional Government will be on 25<sup>th</sup> of July 2009. Therefore, the Iraqi border point "Ibrahim Khalil" will be closed from 23<sup>th</sup> till 26<sup>th</sup> of July 2009. Due to the closing of the border, we are expecting congestion and a couple of days extra waiting time after the re-opening.

### **II.) Ramadan**

This year, Ramadan will be from around 19/20<sup>th</sup> of August till 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> of September. Thereafter will be approx 3-5 days EID holidays. Please keep in mind that due to Ramadan the working hours in the ports, customs offices and all other official and private companies are reduced. We do expect delays in the operation in general.

### **III.) Security Situation**

On June 30<sup>th</sup> the coalition troops handed over the security within the Iraqi cities to the Iraqi army. The coalition troops moved back into their camps. Since that time we have noted a number of attacks and bomb blasts. For certain areas and certain routes we are taking additional pre-cautions.

### **IV.) Erbil International Fair 2009**

We are pleased to inform you that the "ERBIL INTERNATIONAL FAIR" will take place from 12<sup>th</sup> till 15<sup>th</sup> of October 2009. We will participate in that fair.

### **V.) Border situation**

#### **a.) Al Karameh / Trebil (Jordan/Iraqi border)**

The flow of cargo via Jordan into Iraq is still limited as well as the number of Iraqi trucks entering into Jordan on a daily basis (average 40-50 per day max). Still no Iraqi reefer trucks are allowed to enter into Jordan. Therefore, all reefer cargo has to be transhipped from Jordan to Iraqi reefer trucks at the border.



# NEWSLETTER

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## b.) Syrian/Iraqi borders

The first block-train from Lattakia via Baghdad up to Umm Qassr has transported cargo successfully.

Otherwise the traffic via the Syrian gateway into Iraq is slightly increasing. As a border point, so far, only the border point of "Al Waleed" remains open (except the railway border).

## c.) Habour / Zakho (Turkish / Iraqi border)

The service is still running well without major delays. The waiting time for Turkish trucks into Iraq is currently approx. 2-3 days max. and approx. 3-5 days for empty Turkish trucks from Iraq back into Turkey. As mentioned already, we expect a slight increase of the waiting time due to the upcoming elections.

## d.) Umm Qassr port

The current average waiting time is approx.

Ro/ro vessel: 2-3 days waiting time

Container Vessel: 7-10 days waiting time

Break Bulk Vessel: 5- 7 days waiting time, depending on the type of cargo loaded.

We have noted that the southern customs in Basrah and the port customs at Umm Qassr examine the duty exemption letters more closely. In most of the cases the customs are now requesting copies of the contracts in Iraqi language prior to accepting the duty exemption letters. Due to this, delays via this gateway are occurring currently.

## e.) Safwan/ Abdali commercial border point (Kuwait / Iraqi border)

The situation is normal again. Approx 100-200 trucks with commercial cargo are crossing this border point daily. All cargo has to be transhipped from Kuwaiti to Iraqi trucks.

Yours faithfully,

**M.G. International Transports GmbH**

