

March 3, 2026

Middle East Conflict: Ongoing Impact on Global Freight and Supply Chains

We're closely monitoring the escalating conflict in the Middle East and the resulting impact on global air and sea freight operations. The situation remains highly dynamic, and conditions may change with little or no notice. Our teams across the business are working continuously with carriers and partners to assess developments and minimize disruption to your supply chain. Below is the latest summary of known impacts.

Sea Freight Impact

Following the closure of the Strait of Hormuz and various cargo terminals in the Middle East, there are significant service disruptions. Ocean carriers are adjusting services to protect vessel and crew safety. Several major shipping lines have now suspended service as well as new bookings to Middle East destinations until further notice. In addition, carriers are introducing contingency routing and advising of potential cost, routing and schedule impacts.

Customers may experience:

- Force Majeure*
- Schedule delays
- Vessel diversions or rerouting to alternate ports
- Extended transit times
- Introduction of an Emergency Conflict Surcharge (ECS) or War Risk Surcharge (WRS)
- Amendments to existing quotations or booked shipments

Our teams are reviewing all currently booked containers individually and will endeavour to promptly contact affected customers once carrier guidance is confirmed.

** Under standard Force Majeure provisions, carriers are entitled to terminate or amend shipments at any point in the event of an act of God or unforeseeable, uncontrollable circumstances - including war or armed conflict. If a carrier invokes Force Majeure, responsibility for arranging onward transport falls to the cargo owner. This may include organizing alternative delivery routes, securing replacement services, and covering any additional costs incurred to move the goods to their final destination when and where possible.*

Air Freight Impact

Airlines are experiencing significant operational pressure, with increased enquiries, routing changes and restrictions on available capacity. This is causing some delays in receiving updated flight information, space confirmations and carrier responses.

We have been advised that the following countries have currently closed their airspace until further notice:

- Iran
- Israel
- Iraq
- Jordan
- Kuwait
- Qatar
- Syria
- United Arab Emirates

These closures are resulting in flight cancellations, diversions, extended transit times, and potential capacity constraints across neighboring regions. Further changes may occur at short notice.

What This Means for Your Shipments

We understand the importance of maintaining continuity throughout your operations. Our priority is to keep you fully informed and supported with clear, proactive communication. If you have urgent cargo requirements, time-sensitive movements, or wish to explore alternative routing options, please contact our team as soon as possible. We'll work with you to secure space, review alternatives, and mitigate delays wherever feasible.

We're Here to Help

As the situation evolves, we'll continue to provide updates and communicate any changes that may affect your supply chain. If you require further information or support, please reach out to your usual Sea Shipping Line contact or get in touch with your local office. Thank you for your understanding and continued partnership during this period of uncertainty.

Kind regards
Sea Shipping Line