

05 March 2026

### Middle East Operational Update 5

Dear Customer,

We are closely monitoring the evolving situation in the Middle East and would like to provide you with an update on what it means for your shipments and our services across the region. As conditions develop, we are taking proactive measures to protect our people, safety, safeguard cargo integrity and maintain the stability of our network.

Please note that the following information is subject to change due to the highly volatile situation in the region.

#### Ocean Update

We are taking operational measure to ensure the safety of our personnel, safeguard your cargo and maintain service stability across affected trades in the Middle East. Following our latest risk assessment and operational review, the following decisions are being implemented:

Cargo Type	Cargo booking:
Reefer	<p>Suspension of all bookings to and from the <b>UAE, Oman, Iraq, Kuwait, Jordan, Qatar, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia,</b></p> <p>The suspension applies to cargo originating from, destined for, or transshipping through these countries (<i>exception Salalah transshipment to non-upper gulf Countries or between non-upper gulf countries, or between non-upper Gulf countries, for example shipping from Seychelles to Turkey, transshipping in Salalah</i>).</p>
DG	<p>Suspension of all bookings to and from the <b>UAE, Oman, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia.</b> Suspension on <b>DG to Israel is applicable on some UN numbers.</b> <b>See the below table for more information on the this</b></p> <p>The suspension applies to cargo originating from, destined for, or transshipping through these countries (<i>exception Salalah transshipment to non-upper gulf Countries or between non-upper gulf countries, or between non-upper Gulf countries, for example shipping from Seychelles to Turkey, transshipping in Salalah</i>).</p>
OOG/In-gauge	<p>Suspension of all bookings to and from the <b>UAE, Oman, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia</b></p> <p>The suspension applies to cargo originating from, destined for, or transshipping through these countries (<i>exception Salalah transshipment to non-upper gulf Countries or between non-upper gulf countries, or between non-upper Gulf countries, for example shipping from Seychelles to Turkey, transshipping in Salalah</i>).</p>



Dry cargo	<p>Suspension of all booking to/from <b>UAE, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia (Dammam &amp; Al Jubail), Oman (Sohar) &amp; Bahrain. *</b></p> <p><i>*Shipments that contain critical foodstuff, medicine and perishable goods, we will do our utmost to ensure special attention is given.</i></p> <p>We accept bookings to /From <b>Saudi Arabia (Jeddah &amp; King Abdullah port), Jordan &amp; Oman (Salalah), Lebanon and Israel</b></p>
MLL	All above restrictions are not applicable for MLL operator bookings.

*Limitations on Dangerous Goods Cargo to Israel:*

Port	Terminal	Stage	Class	UN Numbers
ILHFA, ILASD		Export, Transhipment, Transit, Import	1, 2.3, 2.1, 5.2	<b>1942;1971;2067;2426;3375;1051;  1092;1098;1131;1143;1163;1182;  1185;1238;1239;1244;1251;1259;  1380;1510;1560;1580;1583;1605;  1613;1614;1695;1994;2075;2232;  2249;2334;2382;2480;2481;2484;  2485;2606;2644;3079;3287;1052;  1093;1099;1100;1160;1162;1214;  1242;1250;1277;1295;1298;1716;  1717;1724;1744;1745;1752;1765;  1790;1809;1810;1815;1818;1829;  1834;1836;1837;1838;1921;2270;  2284;2333;2383;2396;2404;2622;  2692;2699;2734;2735;2826</b>

**Air Update**

As the situation continues to evolve, several countries like the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Iraq, and Iran have announced restricted airspace or full closure. Some airlines have cancelled or re-routed their flights through the region. The reduced flight options and lastminute carrier schedule changes may result in delays or extended transit times.

Impact on sea-ports and ocean operations may also contribute to extended lead times, particularly for Sea-Air volumes connecting through the affected hubs. Furthermore, ground movement at the airports and cargo terminals, such as cargo handovers, acceptance, and processing, may be affected where local restrictions or staff shortages occur.

**Landside update**

Landside services like trucking, rail, and warehousing remain operational across the region. Customers should expect possible border congestion, customs delays, and variable transit times. Alternative routes and stricter security may cause schedule changes and cost shifts. The situation is being monitored for quick response and efficient management.

**Existing bookings and cargo in transit**

Cargo booking and cancellations:

With immediate effect, we are temporarily **suspending cargo booking acceptance** in and out of UAE, Oman (all ports apart from Salalah), Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia (*Dammam and Jubail only*) until further notice.

Shipments that contain critical foodstuff, medicine and perishable goods, we will do our utmost to ensure special attention is given.

Existing bookings with no containers gated out to the above-mentioned countries and ports will be cancelled as the situation continues to be tumultuous.

The suspension and cancellations apply to cargo originating from, destined for, or transshipping through these countries (*exception Salalah transshipment to non-upper gulf Countries or between non-upper gulf countries, or between non-upper Gulf countries, for example shipping from Seychelles to Turkey, transshipping in Salalah*).

Cargo booked but not yet stuffed:

We encourage our customers to engage with their local Maersk representative to explore alternative gateway options, adjusted routing structures or inland solutions outside the impacted zones, where operationally feasible. Our teams remain focused on identifying workable solutions while prioritizing safety and operational resilience; if you would like to change your port of destination, please reach out to your customer representative who can assist you on this.

Cargo in transit:

Based on ongoing security risk assessments, we have taken the precautionary decision to start rerouting some impacted cargo on water for temporary storage within and near the region. We are doing this to maintain operational stability and avoid bottlenecks at key operational ports like Salalah. We will continuously assess the situation, and when possible, we will move cargo to the planned final destination. Our teams will continue to monitor movements closely and contact customers directly should any adjustments or further actions be required; should you require a change to your port of destination, please reach out to your customer representative who can assist you on this. This will follow normal procedure.

We will continue to keep you updated on the situation, via our [Red Sea / Gulf of Aden / Hormuz Strait situation page](#). Should you have further questions please do not hesitate to reach out to your local Maersk representative. Our teams are on hand to support with your planning, should you need any assistance.

Yours Sincerely,

Maersk