Customer Advisory, September 25, 2026

Red Sea and Suez Canal Update

Dear Customer,

Several ocean carriers have announced that selected services will return to the Red Sea and Suez Canal after most Asia–Europe services were diverted around the Cape of Good Hope.

The industry remains in transition: some services are returning to Suez while others continue via the Cape. Routings vary by carrier, service, and trade lane and may change with market and operating conditions.

What This Means for Your Supply Chain

Potential Benefits

- Shorter transit times on selected services.
- Better vessel and equipment utilization.
- Greater network efficiency and capacity over time.
- Lower fuel consumption than Cape routings.

What to Expect

- Varying transit times across carriers and services.
- Ongoing routing and schedule adjustments.
- Routing changes after booking or during transit.
- Congestion and equipment constraints in some locations.
- Continued market volatility.
- Potential cargo insurance coverage gaps.

Shorter routings may improve network efficiency, but pre-disruption market conditions will not return immediately.

Managing Risk During the Transition

As routings evolve, customers should review supply chain risk strategies for high-value, time-sensitive, or business-critical cargo. We encourage you to review your current cargo protection and whether it continues to meet your needs.

To offer you additional confidence for shipments with Suez routings, DHL offers cargo protection and insurance solutions for affected shipments. Cargo insurance may be purchased until vessel departure.

How DHL Supports You

DHL Global Forwarding can:

- Compare routing and carrier options.
- Balance transit time, reliability, cost, and risk.
- Monitor carrier and operational developments.
- Develop contingency plans for critical shipments.
- Offer cargo protection and insurance for Suez routings.
- Respond quickly to schedule or routing changes.

We help you make informed decisions and maintain continuity and reliability in a changing operating environment.

For further information, please contact your DHL Global Forwarding representative.

Kind regards,
DHL Global Forwarding