



Customer Advisory, March 2, 2026

## Middle East Logistics Update

**Dear Customer,**

We would like to keep you updated on the situation in the Middle East and potential implications for your logistics operations. The evolving security environment in parts of the region continues to affect several key trade corridors.

### **SITUATION SUMMARY**

The security situation has escalated significantly in recent days, with multiple carriers reassessing or pausing services due to heightened risks.

Most notably, **the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most critical maritime gateways, has been effectively closed to commercial vessel traffic following recent military escalation.** This has resulted in vessels holding position outside the Gulf region and has temporarily cut off access to major ports, including Jebel Ali, from normal maritime flows.

In parallel, **airspace across parts of the Gulf and neighboring states remains restricted or subject to sudden closures,** affecting flight schedules and causing routing adjustments across the Middle East, Asia–Europe, and Asia–Africa corridors. These restrictions are being updated frequently by national authorities.

While global supply chains remain functional, the operational risk level in the region has risen, and conditions continue to evolve rapidly.

### **OPERATIONAL IMPLICATIONS**

The recent developments have led to:

- **Extended transit times** as vessels and aircraft reroute or hold outside affected zones.
- **Reduced network connectivity** due to the temporary loss of major maritime and air hubs in the Gulf.
- **Capacity constraints,** particularly on services that typically rely on Gulf transshipment or overflight routes.

- **Security related surcharges and passthrough costs** introduced by transport providers responding to elevated risk levels. Carriers have already started to announce war-risk surcharges in the range of USD 1,500-4,000 depending on equipment type and size.

Transport operations across modes continue currently, but booking acceptance and **planning reliability is reduced**, and short-notice adjustments remain possible. Some carriers do not accept any bookings. Carriers across the industry are actively managing cargo acceptance policies, network rotations and assessing alternative paths to maintain continuity of service where feasible.

### **MITIGATION ACTIONS UNDERWAY**

We are:

- Closely monitoring carrier advisories and governmental directives across all affected regions.
- Working directly with carriers on **service recovery plans** and the reallocation of equipment and capacity.
- Prioritizing **time-sensitive shipments** and exploring viable alternative routings where commercially and operationally possible.
- Preparing mitigation measures for potential **longer-term impacts**, including congestion recovery once traffic flows resume.

### **WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM US**

We will continue to provide **regular updates** as the situation develops and until operations stabilize. Any significant changes affecting your shipments will be communicated immediately.

To ensure full transparency during this period, we encourage you to use **myDHLi**, our digital platform offering real-time cargo tracking, booking management, and visibility across all transport modes.

For the latest verified updates on the broader situation, please refer to the dedicated information section on our **[DHL Global Forwarding website](#)**, where we publish daily summaries and relevant advisories.

For shipment specific questions or assistance with contingency planning, your local DHL Global Forwarding Sales and Customer Service teams are at your disposal.

We appreciate your continued partnership and understanding during this time.

**Kind regards**

**Your DHL Global Forwarding Team**