



**The Israeli Federation of International Freight Forwarders
and Customs Clearing Agents**

Chamber of Commerce Building
84 Ha-hashmonaim Street, Tel Aviv 6713203
Tel: 972-3-5631101

1517914

October 15th, 2023

To whom it may concern,

**"Swords of Iron" -Israel at war - bulletin number 6*
regarding procedure on October 15th**

Please note the actual situation affecting export and import cargo movement on the ninth day of the war.

- **Customs and regulation authorities**

All customs field offices and regulation authorities are operating regularly.

- **Border crossings**

Sunday, October 15th 2023:

- Cargo operations at **Allenby/King Hussein/al-Karama Bridge crossing** is partly working between 08:00 – 16:30, for the transfer of:
 1. Cement in bulk.
 2. Iron waste / scrap iron– import and export
 3. Sand
- Cargo operations at **Jordan River/Sheikh Hussein Border Crossing**: the cargo terminal will be open, subject to availability of workers, between 08:30 to 17:00 for sensitive goods (olives. fresh fruits and vegetables) as well as dangerous goods.

- Freight forwarders offering land bridge services between Israel and Jordan to US/Europe have been impacted because the border crossing has been closed.
- **Nitzana Border Crossing** – between Israel and Egypt is closed.
- **Yitzhak Rabin/Arava Crossing** – between Israel and Jordan near Eilat is working.
- **Crossings Administration of the Ministry of Defense serving cargo moving from Israel to the Palestinian Authority.**

The following crossings will be open on 15th October 2023 for humanitarian cargo moving from Israel to the Palestinian Authority only, and not for goods moving from the Palestinian Authority to Israel.

Tarqumiyah Crossing - southern crossing in Yehuda and Shomron

Gilboa/Jalama Crossing - northernmost crossing in Yehuda and Shomron

Sha'ar Ephraim - Ephraim Gate - a crossing in the center of the Yehuda and Shomron region

The following lists of goods are only allowed to pass through the crossings (west to east):

- Medical equipment, drugs and medicines.
- Foods including fruits and vegetables.
- Wooden pallets.
- Raw materials for the food packing industries.
- Petrol
- Full list is available in Hebrew.

The Unit for the Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories (**COGAT**) has approved some 60-70 trucks to move cargo at each of the following crossings from east to west, applicable only for Tarqumiyah Crossing and Sha'ar Ephraim - Ephraim Gate.

The crossing administration is studying ways to increase the variety of goods allowed to cross into the Palestinian Authority. Details will follow.

- **Airports**

Ben Gurion International airport (TLV) stays open as foreign airlines cancel flights. Ben Gurion Airport remains open but the security situation and staff availability could affect flights.

The conflict has caused significant flight disruptions **Major international airlines suspend flights to Israel amid war on Gaza**

Israel's civil aviation authority said airlines should "review current security and threat information" and had changed some air traffic routes. The authority noted that delays should be expected and advised airlines flying to Israel to carry extra fuel as precautionary measure.

- **Airlines**

- **Israel national carrier El Al is flying between the U.S. and Israel, as well as other destinations. El Al said it was operating "in accordance with the instructions of the Israeli security forces".**
- Israel's parliamentary finance committee approved a plan to provide a state guarantee of \$6 billion to cover insurance against war risks to Israeli airlines, the Finance Ministry said on Thursday. The guarantee framework will grant Israeli airlines insurance policies against war risks, thereby ensuring the continuity of air operations in Israel.
- **Challenge Air, Israel's only all-cargo operator, has maintained service to Israel from its hub at Liege airport in Belgium.**

Several airlines, such as Wizz Air, LOT Polish Airlines, Air India, Turkish Airlines, American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Egypt Air, Air Canada, Emirates, Air France, Dutch carrier KLM, Germany's Lufthansa, Finland's Finnair, Norwegian Air, Portugal's TAP, and Polish carrier LOT, along with the Lufthansa Group (comprising SWISS, Brussels Airlines, and Austrian Airlines), either cancelled or reduced flights to Tel Aviv's international airport, Ben Gurion Airport.

British Airways has suspended its service to and from Tel Aviv, the latest airline to halt Israel service as the war escalates. Other countries like China, Hong Kong, and South Korea cancelled all flights to Tel Aviv.

- **Courier / express services**

UPS is maintaining a freeze on flights into Israel because of security concerns associated with operating in a war zone.

DHL Express continues to fly to the country's main airport in Tel Aviv.

FedEx Express suspended flights last Monday and Tuesday. Flight resumed last Wednesday.

Delivery of shipments already in Israel will be performed where safe and possible.

- **Seaports**

Israel's seaports feel strain as shipping traffic slows. Ashdod port is in operation but applies strict entry procedures for vessels carrying hazardous materials.

Other Israeli ports are currently reported to be unaffected and operating as before the conflict escalated.

However, as the situation continues to evolve, the status of Israeli ports can also change.

- **The port of Ashdod** is currently operating in “emergency mode” status.
- **Hadarom Container Terminal (HCT)** working daily until 19:00.
- **The port of Haifa**, which also include the Haifa Bay port and Israel shipyard port, is operating as usual.
- **HaMifratz Port**, Haifa, is operating as usual.
- **Eilat** - The port of Eilat is operating as usual.

Following an announcement about “special situation in the hinterland” in the geographical area in which Ashdod Port is included, the Ministry of Transportation has directed the port to regulate the entry of vessels according to the hereby procedure:

1. Entry of vessels carrying Hazardous Materials (“HAZMAT”) of any kind into Ashdod Port, is subject to a prior approval of Israel’s Administration of Shipping and Ports.
2. Shipping agents are required to send detailed list of all HAZMAT of any type on vessels scheduled to arrive at the port of Ashdod, 48 hours prior its arrival at the port. The above applies to both container ships and general and bulk cargo ships.

The Israeli Navy controls all the sea traffic in all areas around and near the ports of Ashdod and Ashkelon.

British maritime risk advisory and security company Dryad Global noted that “However, the entire situation remains unstable and demands vigilant monitoring. Should Hezbollah from southern Lebanon get involved, the threat level for the port of Haifa would instantly escalate. While not a direct target, the risk of collateral damage to ships and potential operational disruptions would be of significant concern”.

- **Shipping**

- The container liner company ZIM Integrated Shipping Services continues to operate and accept bookings to and from Israel.
- Mediterranean Shipping Co. (MSC) and Maersk, the biggest and largest container shipping companies by cargo volume, told clients they will continue to accept bookings to and from Israel.

- **Insurance and war risk premium**

- As of last Tuesday, in light of the war situation, insurers have imposed an additional insurance premium of war risk on all vessels calling Israeli ports. As such, effective immediately, ZIM is charging the war risk premium, at cost, on relevant cargo.
- The new “war risk” premium charge applies to new bookings and on-water cargo. They range from \$50 to \$120 per 20-foot equivalent unit (TEU).
- Insurance premiums for Israel-bound shipments/ cargo have risen.
- The Israeli Parliament is preparing to extend US\$6 billion in wartime insurance guarantees to three Israeli airlines, enabling carriers "El Al", "Arkia" and "Israir" to continue repatriating Israelis from abroad, amid widespread international flight cancellations to Israel.

- **General**

Israeli companies involved along the international supply chain, have upgraded their activities in recent days in order to address the situation and have taken the necessary steps to enable local importers and exporters fulfill their commercial undertakings.

1. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) have closed main roads near the border with the Gaza Strip.
2. Inland services – both road and rail – are fully operational in and around the country, except around Gaza strip.
3. Officials have announced that schools will be closed in central and southern Israel on October 15th.
4. The conflict could also impose a severe maritime security risk in the area, with sources already claiming that vessels are changing their routes after being advised to do so.
5. Heightened security measures and disruptions to transport and business will almost certainly continue in central and southern areas of Israel over at least the short term.
6. Heightened security is likely at all Israeli ports of entry over the coming days, and the status of border crossings, airports, seaports, roads, and rail services may change on short notice in response to conflict developments. Precautionary measures, such as evacuations, are possible in areas impacted by armed conflict.

Regards

IFFCCA