

# **Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command**

## **Customer Advisory**

**10 March 2022**

**CA-22-03-10-0032**

**Subject:** Impacts of Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr on CENTCOM AOR Cargo Shipments

**Purpose:** To inform the shipping community of the disruption of cargo movement expected to occur during Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr Holiday.

### **Be Advised:**

Each country will observe Ramadan and Eid Holidays based on moon sighting locally. Dates are tentative and may vary in each country subject to respective local Government's guidance that typically issues official circular for Ramadan timings and Eid holidays. This year, Ramadan is expected to start on/about 02 April 2022 and end around 02 May 2022 followed by the Eid Al-Fitr holiday celebration, which marks the end of Ramadan. The Eid al-Fitr is celebrated for 3 or 4 days and may be extended thru the weekend.

The movement of cargo will continue during Ramadan at a lower velocity due to reduced working hours, reduced staff, and meal/prayer breaks. Cargo movement will stop during Eid al-Fitr due to Customs Office and Border Closures in the region.

Additionally, due to the global pandemic and the wide spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19), these countries may at any time enact additional measures at ports/borders/bases to protect the safety and welfare of their people.

### **IMPACT ON CENTCOM AOR:**

#### **BAHRAIN**

**Ramadan:** There will be no issue for custom formalities other than few hours of delay during Ramadan. Port will be operational during Ramadan (24/7). Gate operations will be impacted due to reduced working hours by customs for inspection of cargo. There are no anticipated delays in handling export bookings.

**Eid al-Fitr:** Customs and Government offices will be closed for Eid holidays. Skeleton staff available to attend to urgent issues. Port will be operational during Eid Holidays (24/7).

#### **EGYPT**

**Ramadan:** Anticipate minimal impact due to reduced schedules.

**Eid al-Fitr:** Customs will be closed during Eid holidays.

## **IRAQ**

**Ramadan:** Import cargo movements will continue though slower movements at customs border. Cargo in transit will continue without staging but the process will be slower than usual due to limited number of trucks per convoy.

For export cargo in transit from Iraq to Jordan via Terebil border crossings via are subject to delays in Jordan due to the inability of escort from Jordanian Armed Forces (JAF) beginning 28 April 2022 to 07 May 2022.

**Eid al-Fitr:** Import cargo from Jordan to Iraq will only be staged at the port if clearance process and permissions are not received. Cargo originating from Kuwait into Iraq via the K-Crossing border will experience delays due to anticipated government closures on the first two (2) days of the Eid holiday.

## **JORDAN**

**Ramadan:** Customs office will be working on reduced hours during Ramadan. Obtaining approvals from Jordanian Armed Forces (JAF) will be delayed during Ramadan. Any cargo that requires JAF approval/memo, shall be submitted NLT 20 April 2022 for action.

**Eid al-Fitr:** General Headquarters (GHQ) will be closed from 28 April to 07 May 2022 to celebrate the end of Ramadan, Jordanian Labor Day and Eid Holiday. Emergency request will be considered; however, approvals will not include the movement of cargo. The imported cargo can be staged or en-route to the inland points during Ramadan and Eid.

**TAN:** Import cargo will continue to move but loading of trucks at the port and transiting through the border crossing will be slower due to reduced staff. Cargo operations will continue at a slightly slower speed. Export cargo in transit will continue without staging, however the process will be slower than usual due to limited number of trucks per convoy. Expect delays beginning 28 April to 07 May due to the inability of escort from Jordanian Armed Forces (JAF).

## **KUWAIT**

**Ramadan:** Customs office hours during Ramadan is usually from 0900–1230 from Sunday thru Thursday. Delays with documentation activities, to include backlog with clearance of containers are anticipated. All containers with approved AK302 will be delivered as normally done for PN1 & PN2 depending on the availability of customs personnel. No impact on cargo that has approved AK302, however AK302 must be approved before the Eid holidays. No impact on export cargo. Cargo will be picked up only if AK302 is approved and will be loaded on vessel as normally done.

**Eid al-Fitr:** Normal Port operations likely to remain suspended on the first day of Eid. Customs will remain closed throughout the Government declared holidays. Any documents approved prior to Eid holidays can be cleared from the port after the 1st day of the holiday, all remaining cargo will be processed after the holidays. Normal operations will be impacted from 02-05 May 2022. All containers arriving during the holiday period are likely to be operationally interrupted at the port, and will remain at the port until customs returns to normal operating times. Similarly, on export cargo, no loading activities can be planned from 02-05 May 2022.

## **OMAN**

**Ramadan:** Customs clearance and movement process will be working slowly during the Ramadan and Eid. There may be a decrease in number of requested shipments during the Ramadan month.

**Eid al-Fitr:** During Eid holidays, all clearance processing will stop as both Ministry of Defense (MOD) and Royal Oman Police (ROP) administrative staff will be off duty. ROP Operations will have shifts working and the borders will be open for personal travel and approved shipments. Additional delays will be anticipated. Anything that is not completely cleared through the Bayan system prior to the start of Eid would not be processed until after the Eid holiday.

Contractors will refrain from cargo movement to and from the port during Eid holidays.

## **QATAR**

**Ramadan:** Anticipate delays during prayer time and shift changes during Ramadan from 02 April 2022–02 May 2022. Trucks typically depart the terminal at 0500 hrs and arrive at the port at 0600 hrs. Acquiring gate passes for the trucks, to include entering the port is estimated between 1-2 hours, due to lengthy procedure in generating truck entry passes. This process includes thorough inspection checks conducted by the HN police and customs authority prior to the opening of the gate. Loading by the stevedore is often a longer process-time and dependent on the quantity of cargo and usage of equipment. Delays are expected due to the prayer times and shift changes. There are 2 hours break times for breakfast from 1800–2000 hrs that will affect the customs and port offices.

Cargo will be staged at the port until the officials and employees resume for work. Since online Transit Bayan is required and the same should be issued from shift in charge and they may not be in the office during the holidays, cargo will be waiting at the port until customs shift in charge resumes. Export cargo should be loaded in

the base in the morning hours to make the cut-off at the port after 2000 hrs after the break time.

**Eid al-Fitr:** The port will be closed during the Eid holiday. General Headquarters (GHQ) approvals will be delayed for a minimum of 2 weeks before and 2 weeks after Eid Holidays. Carriers request the shipping community to apply for General Headquarters (GHQ) letter well in advance of Eid.

For container moves, contractors will refrain from cargo lifting from the shipper's site and to the port during Eid. Containers that were lifted (if any) will be staged at the nearest secured yard.

### **SAUDI ARABIA**

**Ramadan:** Customs office will be working on reduced hours during Ramadan. Obtaining approvals for MOFA/JOC in KSA will be delayed during the Ramadan.

**Eid al-Fitr:** All government offices will be closed on/about 02 May 2022 to 05 May 2022. Borders might be closed on the first two days of the Eid holidays.

### **UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (UAE)**

**Ramadan:** Working hours of all organizations are reduced by 2-3 hours.

Stevedore operations will continue with Iftar break. The port will follow the Ramadan timings and thereafter overtime charges will be applicable. Obtaining approvals from The Ministry of Defense (MOD), Security Industry Regulatory Agency (SIRA), State Service Department (SSD) and Customs Inspection in UAE will be delayed during the Holy month of Ramadan.

Working hours for customs office will be reduced. Delays in obtaining MOD and Value Added Tax (VAT) approvals are expected. Port will work normal hours during Ramadan.

**Eid al-Fitr:** Import cargo movement will be put on hold a week prior to the Eid holidays and will resume 5-7 days after Eid.

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