

For the latest news on this situation please refer to our LIVE news page linked [HERE](#).

Carriers Suspend Voyages through Bab Al Mandab Strait

A number of carriers have suspended passage through the Red Sea strait until further notice, following rebel attacks in the waters off Yemen. Three cargo ships from Maersk, Hapag-Lloyd and MSC have been attacked in the Red Sea by drones and missiles. Iran-backed rebels, the Houthis, said they were targeting vessels to pressure Israel over its war with Hamas in the Gaza Strip. No injuries were reported.

The vessels came under attack in the Bab Al Mandab – a narrow strait of water that is vital for global trade and one of the world’s most important routes for oil and fuel shipments. About 17,000 ships and 12% of global trade pass through it yearly.

Most major shipping lines have now paused their vessels from entering the Bab Al Mandab strait, or have already taken the decision to re-route some vessels around the Cape of Good Hope.

Shipments in our care will be fully monitored, and your customer service representative will update you on revised sailing information as soon as carriers confirm their revised plans.

We all remember the disruption caused by the vessel MV Ever Given which blocked the Suez Canal in 2021, and had a significant impact on vessel schedules and transit times. This latest development could see the re-routing of vessels for a considerably longer period of time.

Possible business and industry impacts:

- Longer transit times – an additional 10-14 days on voyage, taking a longer route around the Cape of Good Hope
- Emergency surcharges being imposed by the carriers under the “force majeure” clause on your bill of lading
- Congestion and delays at port of origin and discharge, as vessel arrivals “bunch” together
- Equipment shortages, as containers will be in use for longer
- Capacity constraints, as vessels take longer to complete a voyage; less frequent sailings
- Peak Season Surcharges and General Rate increases caused by supply/demand imbalance
- Bunker (fuel) costs increasing due to oil index surge (oil tankers use the same shipping lane)
- Insurance costs (your own policy may increase), war risks added by carriers

Whilst we hope for the best, it would be wise to prepare for all eventualities as we go into the New Year.

Allseas will continue to monitor the situation and keep clients informed on specific shipment changes. Additionally, you can [contact us](#) directly for further information and support.

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