

MIDDLE EAST ESCALATION – CARRIER IMPACT

March 6, 2026,

Dear Valued Customer,

Escalating security conditions across the Middle East continue to affect global transportation networks, with ocean carriers implementing a range of operational measures that may impact cargo flows to and from the Arabian Gulf and surrounding regions. As carriers respond to evolving safety, navigational, and regulatory risks, customers should anticipate extended transit times, routing adjustments, and increased cost exposure across multiple trade lanes.

Industry reporting indicates that carriers are taking precautionary actions like those seen in other regional disruptions, including rerouting, voyage termination, and discharge at alternative ports. These measures reflect the same broader environment described in recent updates, where carrier rerouting and sustained airspace closures are collectively creating extended transit times, constrained capacity, and increased costs across multiple supply chains.

CURRENT CARRIER MEASURES

Ocean carriers have enacted several operational responses, including:

- **End-of-voyage declarations**, where vessels may not proceed to the originally intended destination port.
- **Mandatory discharge at nearby safe ports**, with cargo made available for collection at those locations.
- **Change-of-destination or ship-back requirements**, in some cases, require new bookings or revised routings.
- **Temporary booking restrictions** or suspensions on certain Middle East–related scopes.

These actions are taken at the sole discretion of the carriers and may occur with limited notice as conditions evolve.

COST IMPACT

Carriers have introduced additional surcharges, including war-risk–related fees, and may apply further cost measures without prior notice. When cargo is discharged at an alternative port, customers may incur terminal handling, storage, documentation, repositioning, or onward-transportation charges.

Similar to the broader market environment, emergency freight increases and war-risk surcharges have been announced by multiple carriers, reflecting higher insurance premiums and fuel costs. Extraordinary maritime safety measures may also trigger additional charges under maritime law, including General Average.

CUSTOMER CONSIDERATIONS

Customers and cargo interests remain responsible for providing timely disposition instructions if cargo is discharged at an alternative port. Delays in instruction may result in additional storage, handling, or repositioning costs.

This aligns with the broader operational reality in the region, where port operations across the Gulf remain uneven, with precautionary suspensions, congestion, or access restrictions reported at certain facilities.

APL Logistics recommends the following actions to help mitigate potential disruption:

- Customers should plan for extended lead times and potential capacity constraints, even on lanes not directly destined for the Middle East.
- Review critical shipments and evaluate alternative routings or destination flexibility.
- Ensure the consignee is ready for potential collection at alternative ports and for rapid decision-making if a change of destination is required.
- Coordinate closely with logistics partners on contingency planning and prioritization.

OUR SUPPORT

APL Logistics continues to monitor carrier advisories, maritime security developments, port conditions, and network impacts across all affected regions. Our teams remain engaged with global partners and will communicate material updates as the situation evolves. For shipment-specific guidance, please contact your local APL Logistics representative.

Sincerely,

APL Logistics

Sources

- *Seatrade Maritime (via gCaptain): Shipping lines reroute from Red Sea avoiding Houthi threat, March 2026*
- *Metro: Middle East: Disruption ripples through global supply chains, March 6, 2026*
- *CNBC: Strait of Hormuz crisis explained – What it means for global shipping, March 2, 2026*