

2.3.4 Iraq Border Crossing of Ibrahim Khalil

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Overview

Ibrahim Khalil is a border crossing point between Turkey and Iraq through the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI). It is also called the Habour Border or Frontier Gate. Ibrahim Khalil is one of the most important border gates in Iraq and the KRI, and is one of the strategic places that connects the Kurdistan region with Europe.

Border Crossing Location and Contact	
Name of Border Crossing	Country #1: Ibrahim Khalil (Iraqi side) Country #2: Habour (Turkish side)
Province or District	Dahuk
Nearest Town or City with Distance from Border Crossing	Zakho city is located 8km east of Ibrahim Khalil border crossing.
Latitude	37.143359
Longitude	42.569173
Managing Authority / Agency	KRG Government, Ministry of Finance, under Directorate of Customs
Contact Person	1. Mr. Hamid Ali: Boarder Manager 2. Mr. Frsat Ali: Customs Manager 0750 445 7628 3. Dr Muafaq Suleiman: New Standard Company, Quality Control Manager Tel: 0750 450 2816, 0751 143 7272 Email: mwafaq.barwary@uod.ac

Travel Times	
Nearest International Airport	Erbil 208 km Truck Travel Time: 4 hrs Car Travel Time: 3 hrs
Nearest Port	N/A
Nearest location with functioning wholesale markets, or with significant manufacturing or production capacity	Dahuk City 65 km Truck Travel Time: 2 hrs Car Travel Time: 1 hrs
Other Information	Multiple fuel stations are available on the road.

Hours of Operation	
Mondays	24 hours/3 shifts
Tuesdays	24 hours/3 shifts
Wednesdays	24 hours/3 shifts

Thursdays	24 hours/3 shifts
Fridays	24 hours/3 shifts (only when paperwork is already processed)
Saturdays	24 hours/3 shifts (only when paperwork is already processed)
Sundays	24 hours/3 shifts
National Holidays	24 hours/3 shifts (only when paperwork is already processed)
Seasonal Constraints	N/A

Daily Capacity

Currently there are only two one-way bridges connecting the KRI to Turkey. A third two-way bridge (30 metres wide) is under construction; this will be largest of the three and is expected to be functional by the end of 2017.

At present and under normal circumstances, Ibrahim Khalil has a total daily capacity that can handle approximately 5,000 trucks for both import and export operations.

For import activities, the border crossing has a parking bay that can accommodate 3,000 trucks of all types, excluding fuel tankers.

The Ibrahim Khalil Customs compound has separate lines for trucks and cars. Approximately 1,000 cars cross the border per day (into and out of); approximately 1,500 trucks cross from Turkey into Iraq per day and approximately 1,000 trucks cross from Iraq into Turkey per day.

One-way Bridge at Ibrahim Khalil



Parking Area (3,000 truck capacity)



Customs Clearance: KRG Procedures

General information and instruction

Tax Exemption Letter (TEL)

1. Organisations require a TEL.
2. A number of organisations have general tax exemption privileges from the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG).
3. Based on the above exemption, such organisations do not need to apply for a TEL on a case-by-case basis for the shipments coming through Ibrahim Khalil Border. However, they need to apply for customs exemption for air-shipments coming via Erbil International Airport (EIA).

Certificate of Conformity (CoC)

1. A CoC is required for all shipments coming into KRI by sea/land and qualified for inspection programme as per the list attached: [CoC Required Product List](#)
2. Currently the COC should be obtained from the KRG-outsourced quality control company, INTERTEK.
3. The CoC is not required for air shipments for all types of supplies via Erbil international airport

Endorsement of shipping documents:

1. No endorsement of shipping documents (e.g. Certificate of Origin, Certificate of Analysis, invoices, packing list) by the Government of Iraq (GoI) or Baghdad Chamber of Commerce is required for shipments coming to and from the KRI.

Authorization letter for clearing agents:

1. Organisations are to issue general time-bound authorization letters on headed paper, signed and stamped, for brokers/customs agents at the Ibrahim Khalil border, and a case-by-case authorization letter to clearing agents at the airport for air shipments.

Nature of goods

- a) General cargo shipment (non-food & non-medical items).
- b) Medical shipment and nutrition (Food) supplies.
- c) Security items (e.g. security PPEs, VHF Radios, AVs).
- d) Dangerous/restricted chemicals (e.g. chlorine).

General cargo shipment documents (non-food & non-medical items)

Sea/Land through Ibrahim Khalil: Documentation need

1. Packing list (translated to Kurdish)
2. Invoice
3. Certificate of Origin/Certificate of Origin of Dispatch (COO)
4. Certificate of Conformity (CoC) - refer to Annex 1

Process

Organisations to submit their requests to the focal point at Joint Crisis Coordination (JCC) centre in Erbil. The request letter should be accompanied by the above shipping documents and specify the name of the company that will release the shipment. The JCC will get the needed approval from all the relevant authorities: Ministry of Interior (MoI) for security items, Directorate of Customs, etc. Once the approval/clearance is obtained, the JCC will inform the organisation's focal person to collect the approval letter.

Organisations must then provide the JCC approval letter to the clearing agent at the entry point, in this case the Ibrahim Khalil border.

Supplies with CoC: If the shipment already has the CoC, then the clearing agent simply needs the shipping documents from the transporter to clear the supplies through customs.

Supplies without CoC: If the shipment does not have CoC, INTERTEK must do the inspection in Turkey, and then the COC will be issued.

Estimate processing period for the above process is 1-2 weeks.

Medical and Nutrition (Food) supplies shipment documents

Sea/Land through Ibrahim Khalil: Documentation need

1. Packing list (translated into Kurdish)
2. Invoice
3. Certificate of origin (CoO)
4. Certificate of Analysis (CoA) for medicine and food. Food items will be tested directly at the border by a dedicated company. It is recommended to translate the results into Arabic and attach them to the shipping documents, as some governorates will check this before allowing distributions.
5. Kurdistan Medical Control Agency (KMCA) form, to be filled by the organisation including all the details for cargo (e.g. serial number of equipment and batch number, production date and expiry date).

Process:

Organisations to submit their requests to the focal point at the JCC Erbil. The request letter should be accompanied by the above shipping documents. The JCC will get the needed approval from all the relevant authority/bodies: Ministry of Health (MoH), KMCA, etc. Once the approval/clearance is obtained, the JCC will inform the organisations' focal person to collect the approval letter.

Organisations must then provide the JCC approval letter to their clearing agent(s) at the entry point, in this case Ibrahim Khalil border.

Estimated processing time frame for the above process is 2-4 weeks

NOTE: Medicine and food items should be transported in Reefer trucks during the summer time, from April to the end of October.

Security items (e.g. Armed Vehicle, VHF Radio) shipment documents

Sea/Land through Ibrahim Khalil: Documentation need

1. Packing list (translated into Kurdish)
2. Invoice
3. Certificate of origin (CoO)

Process

Organisations to send a request letter to the JCC including all the above documents, with the point of entry and delivery point clearly indicated in the letter. The JCC will issue a letter to the MoI. MoI will issue two letters: one addressed to the security department at Ibrahim Khalil and another letter addressed to the JCC.

The JCC will then issue an exemption letter addressed to the Customs Department at Ibrahim Khalil border. Organisations will receive and share the letter from the JCC with the clearing agent at the border to clear the shipment. The letter from the MoI will not be handed to organisations, but will be sent directly to the border. However, organisations may receive a copy or the reference number of the letter from MoI and submit it to the clearing agent.

Estimated time frame for the above process is at least 3-4 weeks.

Dangerous/restricted chemicals (e.g. chlorine, Calcium Hyper and Phosphate) shipment documents

Sea/Land through Ibrahim Khalil: Documentation need

1. Packing list (translated into Kurdish)
2. Invoice
3. Certificate of Origin/Certificate of Dispatch (CoO)
4. Certificate of Analysis (CoA)

Process

The process is the same as the one for importing medicine, with additional approval required by the MoI for some specific items through the JCC (similar to Security items). Estimated time and process is 4 – 8 weeks.



For more information on customs in Iraq, please see the following link: [1.3 Iraq Customs Information](#).

Other Relevant Information

Since December 2016, customs facilitation for humanitarian cargo arriving in the KRI is managed through a "One-Stop Shop" (OSS) in Erbil located at the JCC office. This free-of-charge service for humanitarian organisations includes:

- Facilitation of customs clearance (including possible waiver of duties and taxes) for international cargo arriving into KRI;
- Coordination with all relevant authorities for the movement of humanitarian assistance into the KRI and on to other parts of the country.

Organisations should have one focal point for the JCC Erbil, to facilitate their requests.

OSS location: Joint Crisis Coordination (JCC) Centre in Erbil

Raparin Quarter, 40 Meter Street, Brayaty Twin Roads (next to AYA Supermarket)

Application submission for customs clearance: Sunday, Tuesday or Thursday, between 9am and 1:30pm.

1. Must be physically handed to the JCC focal person by the organisation.
2. OSS will determine the type of shipment and the type of authorization needed.
3. The requesting letters are then addressed by the OSS to the relevant authorities.

Required documents:

Request letter asking for customs facilitation and the waiver of duties and taxes; Must be the organisation's letterhead and copies provided both in English and in Kurdish. Stamped and signed by the organisation's authorized personnel, with the following information:

- Name of organisation.
- Registration information.
- Intended use of shipment.
- Offloading destination of shipment (beneficiaries and intended location).
- Explicit request for the customs clearance, detailing entry point and addressed to: Ministry of Interior, Represented by the Joint Crisis Coordination (JCC) Centre, Kurdistan Regional Government, Erbil, Iraq

- ناو خۆتی زاره وه – قەمیرانەکان هەماهەنگی هاوێشێ ناوەندی /بۆ .
- مەرزێی هاوکاری هۆبەیی گومرگێکاتی کاروبارە بەرێوێردنی بۆ .
- گومرگ باجی لە بەخشێن و پێدان رێگا /ب

- Shipping documents for the goods concerned and all customs clearance documents:
 - Packing list(s)
 - Invoice(s) or Certificate of Donation
 - Certificate(s) of Origin (CoO)
 - Certificate of Analysis (CoA) – For medicines ONLY

- KMCA form- for medicine ONLY
- Certificate of Conformity (CoC) - if items fall under the list on annex 1
- Transport documentation
- Waybill or CMR (land shipments) or Air Waybill (air shipments) — include consignee and transporter details.

For more information on government contact details, please see the following link: [4.1 Iraq Government Contact List](#) .