



كونسولديتد شيبينج سيرفيسز (ش.ذ.م.م.)
Consolidated Shipping Services L.L.C.

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OFFICIAL NOTICE: INVOCATION OF LIBERTY CLAUSE & OPERATIONAL DEVIATION

DATE: 23/03/2026

TO:

All Valued Partners / Cargo Interest Holders,

SUBJECT: URGENT: Notice of Force Majeure & Vessel Deviation – Strait of Hormuz Closure

Dear Partners,

Please be advised that **Consolidated Shipping Services LLC (CSS)** has received formal notification from various Ocean Carriers (including MSC, Maersk, Hapag-Lloyd, and CMA CGM) regarding a major operational deviation. Due to the **closure of the Strait of Hormuz**, carriers have declared an inability to safely transit the region, affecting all cargo destined for the Arabian Gulf.

1. Nature of Deviation & Legal Basis

The Carrier(s) have formally invoked the **Liberty Clause** and **Force Majeure** provisions contained within their respective Bills of Lading.

- **Reason for Deviation:** Closure of the Strait of Hormuz, constituting an event beyond the Carrier's and Forwarder's control.
- **Contractual Right:** Under international maritime law and standard Bill of Lading terms, Carriers are permitted to deviate from the intended route, suspend services, or terminate the voyage at an alternative port to ensure the safety of the vessel and crew.

2. Current Status of Cargo & Available Contingencies

Cargo is currently being detained or discharged at major transshipment hubs, including ports in **India, Sri Lanka, Oman (Sohar/Salalah), and Saudi Arabia (Jeddah)**. The following options have been outlined by the Carriers:

- **OPTION A (Relay/Delay):** The Carrier intends to hold and eventually relay cargo via feeder vessels to the original destination. **Status:** No confirmed ETA is currently available from the Carriers for India or Sri Lanka hubs.
- **OPTION B (Termination at Alternative Port):** The Carrier has terminated the voyage at an alternative port (e.g., India/Sri Lanka). Cargo is available for pickup by the Merchant/Owner. **Note:** All costs for pickup and onward carriage are for the **Cargo Owner's account**.
- **OPTION C (Termination at Sohar/Salalah/Jeddah):** The voyage is terminated at these regional hubs. CSS can coordinate the recovery of containers and provide a schedule of applicable charges for onward delivery to your final destination.

3. Liability & Forwarder Position

Consolidated Shipping Services LLC acts strictly in the capacity of a **Freight Forwarder (Agent)**. Please take





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note of the following:

- **Carrier Autonomy:** The decision to deviate, terminate, or reroute is made solely by the Ocean Carrier.
- **Limitation of Liability:** Per our **Standard Trading Conditions**, CSS is not liable for any delays, losses, rerouting, or additional costs (including storage, demurrage, or detention) arising from the Carrier's exercise of these liberties.
- **Cost Allocation:** All additional expenses resulting from this deviation are for the **account of the cargo owners/consignees**.

4. Required Actions & Next Steps

To mitigate financial and operational risk, we recommend the following:

1. **Immediate Insurance Notification:** Notify your **Cargo Underwriters** immediately. This notice serves as a formal declaration of deviation, which is required to maintain insurance validity.
2. **Disposition Instructions:** Please provide written instructions on how you wish to proceed (Option A, B, or C).
3. **Onward Quotes:** If you require CSS to arrange alternative inland or sea transport from the new discharge ports, please request a quote from your account representative.

We are monitoring this volatile situation closely and will provide further updates as they are released by the Ocean Carriers.

Sincerely,

The Management
Consolidated Shipping Services LLC.

