

# MEMBER ALERT



Shipowners Claims Bureau, Inc., Manager  
One Battery Park Plaza 31<sup>st</sup> Fl., New York, NY 10004 USA  
Tel: +1 212 847 4500  
Fax: +1 212 847 4599

[www.american-club.com](http://www.american-club.com)

**JUNE 7, 2017**

## SEVERAL MIDDLE EASTERN NATIONS CUT DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH QATAR

Your Managers draw Members' attention to the news that Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Egypt have cut diplomatic and trading ties with Qatar. Yemen and one of the competing governments of Libya have also indicated their intention to similarly sever relations with Qatar. It is expected that these developments will directly affect both air and sea traffic in the region.

The following is what we have learned of the situation thus far:

### UAE

Jebel Ali: We understand that effective 0001 Hrs/6th June, vessels arriving from and/or proceeding to Qatar ports may not be granted entry and clearance. This is verbal information from Jebel Ali Immigration which is the authority granting port clearance for vessels

Hamriyah: We are informed that effective 0001 Hrs/6th June entry and clearance may not be granted to vessels arriving from and/or proceeding to Qatar ports. This is again a verbal information from Hamriyah Port Immigration. No official circular received as of yet.

Fujairah: All vessels, either flying the flag of Qatar or foreign flag vessels that have their last port as Qatar or are destined for Qatar after Fujairah will not be allowed into Fujairah Port or anchorage. Such vessels will not only be allowed for cargo purposes (loading or discharging) but also crew matters, bunkering, repairs or any other business. All vessels presently at Fujairah Port or Fujairah anchorage have been ordered to leave UAE waters. The advisory entitled [Notice to Mariners No. 224 Entry Restrictions to Vessels Flying Qatar Flag](#) has been issued to this effect.

Abu Dhabi Ports: All vessels flying the flag of Qatar, and all vessels, arriving from or destined to Qatar, irrespective of its flag, are banned from calling into any of Abu Dhabi Petroleum Ports. In addition, Abu Dhabi Ports have issued a circular entitled [CHM Direction 02-17](#) banning Qatari flagged vessels and also foreign flag vessels which are bound for or coming from Qatar.

Mina Saqr: Below received from the Port Authorities today.

1. Vessels last port being Qatar is not permitted in Mina Saqr (in port & OPL)
2. Vessels' next port cannot be Qatar (in port & OPL)

# MEMBER ALERT



Shipowners Claims Bureau, Inc., Manager  
One Battery Park Plaza 31<sup>st</sup> Fl., New York, NY 10004 USA  
Tel: +1 212 847 4500  
Fax: +1 212 847 4599

[www.american-club.com](http://www.american-club.com)

3. No crew of the vessels should sign on in Qatar (OPL vessels)
4. Vessels flag should not be of Qatar (in port & OPL).
5. Any passenger/ superintendent / surveyor / technician etc. holding last exit stamp from Qatar is not permitted (OPL vessels).

Ras Al Khaimah: Similar position as Fujairah and vessels at anchorage or Port bound for Qatar have been asked to leave immediately, although no notice has been received.

Khorfakkan: Similar position as Fujairah, however no official announcement for vessels bound for Qatar to leave immediately. No notice has been received.

Humriah (Sharjah): We are informed that effective 0001 Hrs/6th June entry and clearance may not be granted to vessels arriving from/proceeding to Qatar ports. This is again verbal information from Hamriyah Port Immigration. No official circular received as of yet.

## SAUDI ARABIA

In implementation of the statement issued by Saudi government on the severing of diplomatic and consular relations with State of Qatar and the closure of all land routes, sea and air ports, the General Organization of Saudi Sea Ports Authority announced this evening to all shipping agents not to receive any vessels hosting Qatari flag or owned by Qatari companies or individuals as well as to unload any goods of Qatari origin in Saudi ports.

## BAHRAIN

The Ports and Maritime Affairs at Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications (MTT) have issued this [Notice-from-MTT-regarding-Qatar](#) informing that that all Bahrain Ports and territorial waters will remain suspended for marine navigation from and to State of Qatar effective from June 6, 2017.

## EGYPT

It is expected that any vessels flying the Qatari flag will not be permitted to enter Egyptian PORTS, and flights between the two countries will be suspended.

At this time we believe there will not be a restriction in place for Qatari vessels transiting the Suez Canal, however this may affect Qatari crew if changing out in Egypt during the transit.

# **MEMBER ALERT**



Shipowners Claims Bureau, Inc., Manager  
One Battery Park Plaza 31<sup>st</sup> Fl., New York, NY 10004 USA  
Tel: +1 212 847 4500  
Fax: +1 212 847 4599

[www.american-club.com](http://www.american-club.com)

## **QATAR**

So far there is no restriction or ban declared on any vessel arriving from/proceeding to Saudi Arabia, UAE and Bahrain. There has not yet been any formal announcement issued by any Qatari port or any authorities on this subject.

## **FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

Members who are already performing contracts of carriage with existing obligations to call at a port in Qatar, or who are considering to call on Qatari ports in the near future are urged to fully assess the implications of calling Qatar before agreeing to do so. Members facing such scenarios should immediately contact the Managers to consider and address the risks and exposures associated with such trades.

With respect to prospective contractual dealings -- and considering the ambiguity at present surrounding the potential treatment of foreign flagged vessels calling at Qatari ports and thereafter visiting ports in Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain and/or Egypt – it is strongly recommended that Members carefully consider port calls for bunkering or crew changes in these areas. Members are further encouraged to ensure that their existing or future charter party arrangements contain suitable and appropriate contractual wordings and clauses that will either grant the liberty to avoid such port calls or otherwise address the potential consequences.

Your Managers would like to thank MESCO, Mutual Marine Services Al Mushtaraka Ltd., Gulf Agency Co., ISS, One Maritime, and Sharaf Shipping Agency for the information contained in this Alert.