

MIDDLE EAST SUPPLY CHAIN OPERATIONAL UPDATES

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Marken, UPS Healthcare Precision Logistics, continues to closely monitor the evolving Middle East situation, where airspace closures, flight suspensions, and regional disruptions affect supply chain logistics.

We are Ready-Now: While geopolitical disruptions constrain others, Marken stays fully operational, delivering precision solutions that safeguard patient safety and product integrity at every step.

Today's updates are indicated in blue.

Marken is closely monitoring the global situation and will share updates as available.

GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Ongoing conflict involving Iran and Israel have triggered widespread airspace restrictions and no-fly zones over parts of the Middle East.
- Multiple airlines and integrators have suspended or rerouted flights via the Gulf and Levant, particularly on the Asia-Middle East-Europe corridor, increasing transit times and reducing capacity for time-sensitive cargo.
- Several carriers have also cancelled or adjusted services around the region due to temporary airport closures and security incidents, including a drone-related fire at Dubai International Airport that briefly halted operations and forced diversions, and emergency flights being added from UAE hubs to assist passengers.
- Major ocean carriers have paused transits through the Strait of Hormuz and continue to limit Suez Canal/Red Sea activity, rerouting ships around the Cape of Good Hope.
- Shippers are advised by leading freight forwarders to plan for longer lead times, confirm bookings early, and share detailed forecasts to secure capacity and adjust safety stocks.

If you have questions about a specific shipment or our operations in a particular area, please contact your local Marken branch or your business development professional.

APAC REGION (ASIA-PACIFIC)



CHINA / NORTH ASIA



INDIA / SOUTH ASIA



SOUTHEAST ASIA (SINGAPORE, THAILAND, VIETNAM)

- Flights previously via Middle East to Europe re-timed/rerouted via northerly/southerly paths.
- Increased flight times; occasional last-minute schedule changes.
- Ocean services via Arabian Sea/Gulf hit by diversions/security measures.
- Air cargo through Gulf hubs sees capacity tightening/schedule variability.
- Local operations stable; long-haul to Europe/North America impacted via Middle East overflights/hubs.
- **While day-to-day site operations remain steady, shipments routed through Middle Eastern hubs continue to experience extended transit times, occasional schedule changes, and limited capacity due to ongoing airspace restrictions.**

EMEA REGION (EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA)



EUROPE



MIDDLE EAST



AFRICA

- Ports/airports face schedule shifts from longer Asia voyages, Middle East-avoiding air paths.
- Tighter capacity on some lanes.
- **Collection volumes to and from clinical sites in the region will be reduced during the Eid holiday period (18-23 March), with potential adjustments to pickup schedules.**
- Airspace restrictions/security lead to airline suspensions, reroutes, consolidations.
- Ocean carriers pause Strait of Hormuz; manage regional port calls cautiously.
- **Marken's Home Healthcare & Site Support:** Our services remain available in Saudi Arabia, UAE, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, and Egypt to maintain select study visits, support protocol adherence, ensure patient safety, and augment impacted site staffing.
- Middle East hub routings see schedule/capacity changes.
- East Africa Red Sea/Suez trades face extended transits.

Additional Regional Updates:

- **Bahrain (Closed):** Airspace and airports remain suspended.
- **Israel (Closed/Restricted):** Israel's airspace remains closed to civilian traffic. Operations are limited to military flights and select government-authorized operators only.
- **Jordan (Open/Limited):** Jordanian airspace is currently open, though flight disruptions and short-notice schedule changes remain possible.
- **Kuwait (Closed):** Airspace and airports remain suspended.
- **Saudi Arabia (Open/Limited):** Riyadh, Jeddah, and Dammam remain operational, though regional airspace restrictions are impacting schedules and connections. Several airlines continue to limit or adjust Gulf routes due to regional airspace disruptions.
- **Lebanon (Open/Limited):** Beirut remains operational with reduced schedules, primarily operated by Middle East Airlines (MEA); airspace remains open.
- **Egypt (Open):** Airports remain operational, though some delays and cancellations continue due to regional rerouting and airspace restrictions.
- **UAE (Partially Open):** UAE airspace has partially reopened, with Emirates, Etihad, and other carriers operating reduced schedules. Transit flows remain constrained due to wider regional airspace restrictions.
- **Qatar (Closed/Limited Access):** Qatari airspace is currently restricted following a NOTAM indicating closure to most aircraft. Exceptions are in place for state, Medical Evacuation (MEDEVAC), and Search And Rescue (SAR) flights with prior approval, while emergency air traffic control protocols allow limited commercial operations under special permission. **Qatar Airways currently operates a limited number of freighters and passenger flights; schedules are published on their website, though movements remain lower than regional peers such as Emirates and Etihad.**
- **Oman (Open/Limited):** Airports remain operational, but airline schedules are still affected by wider regional airspace restrictions. Oman Air continues to operate with adjustments to several regional routes.

LATIN & CENTRAL AMERICA REGIONS

While Latin and Central American operations are not at the epicenter of the Middle East crisis, they are affected indirectly via global capacity constraints and network imbalances, particularly on Asia/Europe-LATAM flows that rely on shared long-haul aircraft and ocean capacity. As carriers redeploy aircraft and vessels to manage disruptions in the Middle East corridor, secondary markets such as Latin America may experience periodic capacity tightening and shifting schedules.

- Ocean shipments that would normally transit via Suez or Gulf routes may experience longer transit times and reduced schedule reliability due to diversions around the Cape of Good Hope, vessel bunching, and intermittent port congestion in Europe.
- Airfreight accessing Latin America via European or Middle Eastern hubs may be subject to schedule adjustments, longer routings, and short-term capacity shortages as carriers avoid or reduce use of affected Middle East airspace and hubs

NORTH AMERICA REGION

North American operations remain stable, but are indirectly affected by the same global capacity, routing, and rate dynamics seen in other regions. Network adjustments across international air and ocean services continue to create secondary impacts on capacity allocation and equipment availability in North American lanes.

More flights are avoiding Middle East airspace, and ocean carriers serving North America from Asia and Europe are still dealing with the knock-on effects of Red Sea/Suez diversions and Gulf security concerns. These conditions may contribute to occasional schedule variability, longer transit times on certain routes, and periodic pressure on available air and ocean capacity.

MARKEN'S ONGOING RESPONSE & COMMITMENT TO PATIENTS

Marken Prioritizes Patient Safety, Product Integrity, and Data Quality Above All. When Middle East routings disrupt, we execute rigorous risk assessments evaluating carrier options, transit times, and lane-specific security—to deploy alternative global solutions: rerouted ocean services, hybrid air-sea/air-ground/UPS network pathways, and stable hub connections that protect study timelines despite delays.



Our Proactive Disruption Response

- 24/7 monitoring of airspace suspensions, airspace closures, and schedule changes.
- Partner coordination to triage and recover cold chain shipments.
- Alternative routings/carriers for time/temperature-critical cargo (with transparent TAT updates).
- Continuous communication on routing, collections, and constraints.
- Origin facility/vendor/airline sync for rapid recovery, secure storage, and re-icing.

We're Here to Support You

Marken's self-healing UPS network and proven mitigation strategies ensure business continuity. This dynamic situation receives constant 24/7 oversight—contact your local representative or info@marken.com for immediate support.

Talk with an expert today: expert@marken.com

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