

MIDDLE EAST SUPPLY CHAIN OPERATIONAL UPDATES

APRIL 23, 2026

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In light of the ongoing situation in the Middle East, Marken, UPS Healthcare Precision Logistics continues to assess impacts on airspace, operations, and airline services. We are closely monitoring developments and will provide updates as more information becomes available.

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.

GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Ongoing conflict involving Iran, Israel, and broader regional actors has driven widespread airspace restrictions, high-risk advisories, and intermittent closures across parts of the Middle East, compressing available routings. Airlines and integrators have periodically suspended, reduced, or rerouted services via major Gulf and Levant transit paths—particularly impacting Asia–Middle East–Europe flows—raising transit times and reducing effective capacity for time-sensitive cargo.
- Several carriers have also cancelled or adjusted services due to evolving airspace restrictions, airport disruptions, and security incidents at key regional hubs. These changes have required diversions, rolling schedule adjustments, and repositioning or special recovery flights to support affected passenger and cargo operations.
- Maritime conditions remain highly volatile. Commercial traffic through the Strait of Hormuz has faced severe disruption, restricted transit controls, and recent vessel seizures, while many carriers continue limiting exposure on Red Sea/Suez routings. Selected loops are maintaining or reintroducing Cape of Good Hope diversions, adding transit time, disrupting sailing schedules, and contributing to equipment and network imbalances across connected trade lanes.
- Freight forwarders continue to advise shippers to plan for longer lead times, secure bookings earlier, and increase forecast visibility to protect scarce capacity and adjust inventory buffers where feasible. Proactive communication and scenario planning remain central to maintaining service continuity in a volatile environment.

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



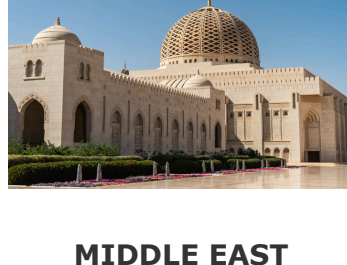
SOUTHEAST ASIA (SINGAPORE, THAILAND, VIETNAM)

- Many Asia-Europe flights that typically transit airspace near the Middle East or adjacent corridors have been retimed or rerouted via more northerly or southerly paths, depending on carrier strategy and airspace restrictions.
- These adjustments are increasing flight times on some lanes and can contribute to occasional short-notice schedule changes, payload limits, or equipment swaps.
- Ocean services transiting the Arabian Sea and Gulf may face selective rerouting, transit timing adjustments, and heightened security measures, which can disrupt schedules and routing on certain services.
- Air cargo moving through Gulf hubs may also experience periodic capacity tightening, longer transit times, and schedule variability as carriers adjust networks and manage operational risk.
- Local operations remain generally stable. Long-haul services to Europe may be affected by Middle East overflight restrictions or Gulf hub disruptions, while North America lanes are more selectively impacted through global network and capacity shifts.

EMEA REGION (EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA)



EUROPE



MIDDLE EAST



AFRICA

- Ports and airports continue to experience schedule variability driven by longer Asia-Europe ocean routings and avoidance airspace around the Middle East.
- Capacity remains tighter on some Europe-Asia lanes, with periodic pressure on rates, transit times, and hub operations.
- Outside holiday periods, clinical collections are generally operating normally, though country-specific adjustments may occur.
- Airspace and maritime disruptions remain the primary operational risk, with potential impacts to flight schedules, transit times, and ocean routing through the Gulf.
- Trade lanes routed through Middle East hubs may experience schedule variability and periodic capacity changes.
- East Africa shipments tied to Red Sea/Suez corridors may face extended transit times, feeder disruption, and occasional equipment constraints.

Additional Regional Updates:

- **Bahrain:** Airspace reopened April 8 with phased restoration of operations at Bahrain International Airport. Capacity recovery remains gradual, and short-notice disruptions are still possible.
- **Israel:** Ben Gurion Airport remains operational, but recovery is uneven. Domestic and local operations are more stable, while many foreign carriers continue selective suspensions or reduced schedules.
- **Jordan:** Queen Alia International Airport remains operational, though intermittent restrictions and schedule changes remain possible depending on regional developments.
- **Kuwait:** Airspace and airport operations remain significantly restricted and subject to change. Limited operations may continue for some carriers, with backlog and space constraints possible.
- **Iraq (Erbil / Baghdad):** Iraqi airspace has reportedly reopened, but airline resumptions remain uneven. Reduced capacity, carrier-specific suspensions, and delays should be anticipated.
- **Saudi Arabia:** Major airports remain operational, though delays, selective cancellations, and carrier-specific cargo adjustments remain possible.
- **Lebanon:** Beirut remains operational, though schedules and outbound connectivity may be constrained.
- **Egypt:** Airports remain operational, though some airlines continue selective suspensions or reroutings.
- **UAE:** Dubai and Abu Dhabi remain operational, though some carriers continue reduced schedules or suspensions.
- **Qatar:** Doha remains operational with staged recovery and some corridor constraints.
- **Oman:** Airspace remains open and strategically used as an alternate corridor, though route-specific restrictions may remain.

Customer Guidance:

- Due to limited capacity, shipments to Bahrain, Kuwait, and Iraq may face delays and space constraints.
- Customers should contact their local branch to confirm operational feasibility and routing options before booking.
- Secure shipment bookings as early as possible to minimize delays caused by congestion or limited capacity.

LATIN & CENTRAL AMERICA REGIONS

Latin and Central American operations are not at the epicenter of the Middle East crisis, but they continue to experience indirect impacts from global capacity constraints and network imbalances, particularly on Asia/Europe–LATAM flows that rely on shared long-haul aircraft and ocean capacity. As carriers adjust networks to manage disruptions across the Middle East corridor, secondary markets such as Latin America may experience periodic capacity tightening, schedule variability, and routing changes on key trade lanes.

- Ocean shipments that would typically transit via the Suez/Red Sea corridor may face longer transit times and reduced schedule reliability where services are diverted around the Cape of Good Hope. These adjustments can contribute to extended lead times, vessel bunching, and intermittent congestion at European transshipment ports, with downstream effects on Latin American feeder services, including delays, equipment imbalances, and schedule changes.
- Airfreight moving into Latin America via European hubs—or through globally reallocated carrier networks—may also be affected by longer routings and schedule adjustments as airlines selectively avoid impacted airspace. This can result in temporary capacity constraints on certain Europe–LATAM and Asia–LATAM corridors, particularly during periods of elevated demand.

NORTH AMERICA REGION

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

Some airlines continue to selectively avoid or reroute around portions of Middle East airspace, while ocean carriers serving North America from Asia and Europe manage ongoing knock-on effects from Red Sea and Suez Canal disruptions, as well as broader regional security considerations. These conditions can contribute to occasional schedule variability, longer transit times on certain routes, and periodic pressure on available air and ocean capacity, particularly during demand surges or peak shipping periods.

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 operations, 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 airline 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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