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Dear agent and anyone else using sea freight to ship to Qatar,

Qatar's Council of Ministers decided on some changes related to the sea port that took effect in March of 2015.

Fees were unrealistically low and the port suffered from companies using the free days and low fees to keep the port as a cheap storage option, thus crowding the port and making it hard for the port authority to get their work done.

How does this impact shipping of household goods and personal effects?

20' container (clears in approx. 3* – 7 days depending on weekend & availability of paperwork)

From the time the container arrives in the port yard the clock start ticking.

The first three days the port storage (including the day it arrived) will be free.

Day 4, 5 and 6 the port will charge us QAR 60 (US\$ 16.50) per day.

From the 7th day onwards there will be a daily charge of QAR 120 (US\$ 33).

40' container (clears in approx. 3* – 7 days depending on weekend & availability of paperwork)

As above, but from the fourth day the prices are double:

Day 4, 5 and 6 the port will charge us QAR 120 (US\$ 33) per day.

From the 7th day onwards there will be a daily charge of QAR 240 (US\$ 66).

LCL Shipments / Groupage (clears in approx. 9 – 14 days & availability of required paperwork)

Whoever is the consolidator of the container will be charging each individual consignment a prorated fee equal to the amount of cubic meters divided by the total amount of cubic meters in the container. As clearing an LCL shipment is a longer process than a sole container we are seeing a minimum of QAR 450 for 1 cubic meter and we just got hit with QAR 2,000 (US\$ 550) for 6 cubic meters. Consolidators in Qatar are facing increasing costs which are being passed onto the Delivery Order we have to settle in order to get the documents to being the process of customs clearance. Without specifying an amount we are looking at approx. US\$ 100 per cubic meter, on top of the normal LCL charges of US\$ 85 - 120 per cbm.

Special note: All above charges will be receipted, for the containers we will have a bill directly from Milaha (port agent), and for the LCL / groupage options we will have the invoice of the consolidator.

If the consolidator has dangerous goods mixed up with household goods, it can take up to a month to get the household goods cleared, as all shipments in the container must be ready for clearance at the same time. (This applies to LCL and Groupage.) It is important that you check with your consolidator at origin to make sure they will not ship it combined with DGR.

*If container vessel arrives just before the weekend it will not be possible to clear sole containers in three days. We clear approx. 30 % of sole containers in three days depending on the shipping line. Other factors outside our control do affect clearance from time to time.

Who pays?

We will ask in our confirmation of receiving pre-alert who will be responsible for these charges. If the shipper needs to pay he/she must be informed by the controlling agent about this in advance and not pass the responsibility to GAC Qatar trying to explain the situation.

Best regards,

Jarmo Kihlstrom
Manager – International Moving
GAC Qatar