



## **ALERT: TURKEY – NEW REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS CONCERNING ISRAEL-TURKEY RELATIONS**

This is an update on a recent development affecting vessels calling at Turkish ports in light of Israel-Turkey relations.

As is well known, imports or exports of all kinds of goods and products between Türkiye and Israel have been suspended since 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024 due to the ongoing armed conflict in Palestine. Accordingly, the Customs Directorates in Türkiye do not permit any imports/exports or shipments related to the State of Israel.

Although no official circular has been issued by the authorities, following the Ministry of Trade's decision last year to suspend trade with Israel, new directives and instructions regarding Israel-Türkiye relations were effectively implemented by the Turkish Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2025 and are currently being enforced at Turkish ports through port authorities.

The new requirements and restrictions are as follows:

- Direct calls to and from Israel are prohibited.
- Vessels that are flagged, owned or operated by Israeli entities are prohibited from calling at Turkish ports or receiving any supplies or services.
- Turkish-flagged vessels are prohibited from calling at Israeli ports.
- Vessels operated by companies connected with Israel engaged in CSR, ISM, or even BIMCO-related activities will not be permitted entry into Turkish ports.
- Vessels will be required to submit the BIMCO SHIPMAN 2009 form for delivery order purposes.
- Cargo related to Israel, including container transshipment, will not be allowed to undergo any cargo operations at Turkish ports.
- Vessels carrying cargo connected to Israel that is already in transit and where no operations occur in Turkish ports (excluding IMO Class 1 & IMO Class 7 cargoes) will be exempt from these restrictions.
- The new restrictions do not affect the regime regulating transit passage through the Turkish Straits under the Montreux Convention 1936.
- Local agents of vessels are required to issue a brief letter of undertaking, confirming that they will assume full responsibility in the event of any breach of these restrictions. This undertaking is requested for every vessel and each port call. A standard wording has been drafted and shared with local agents by the Harbour Masters in Turkey. A sample undertaking is annexed to this alert.

Since the new requirements have only recently come into effect, further clarification regarding their implementation is awaited. However, it has been reported that these restrictions will be enforced at all Turkish ports and noncompliance will result in denial of entry.

As of the time this alert was compiled, authorities have identified the submission of the BIMCO Shipman 2009 document as a mandatory requirement for vessel entry to ports and issuance of delivery orders. However, in certain cases where the BIMCO Shipman 2009 agreement is not available, authorities may consider exceptions by accepting a ship management agreement that is equivalent in nature and function. It should be noted, however, that the approval of any such alternative documentation is entirely at the discretion of the authorities and cannot be guaranteed at this time.

If it is determined that a vessel is in breach of the above restrictions, administrative fines will be imposed on the vessel's local agents in accordance with Article 39 of the Ports Regulation, ranging from TRY 12,160 (approximately USD 300) to TRY 482,333 (approximately USD 12,100).

In light of the above and to avoid any delays in the vessel's schedule, Members are advised to comply with these requirements at all Turkish ports until further clarification regarding their scope and application is provided. Accordingly, Members should instruct their local agents to complete all necessary formalities. Finally, we recommend submitting any documentation with all confidential information appropriately redacted.

Should you have any queries relating to this alert or need further detailed information, please contact Kalimbassieris Maritime Istanbul Office via e-mail [istanbul@kalimbassieris.com](mailto:istanbul@kalimbassieris.com) or at the phone number (+90) 216 457 56 00.

Yours Sincerely,  
Kalimbassieris Maritime Denizcilik AS (Istanbul)

## LETTER OF UNDERTAKING

To the ..... Regional Port Authority,

As the legal agent of the vessel named ....., Flag ....., IMO Number ....., which has applied via LYBS (Port Management Information System) for berthing/unberthing and loading/discharge operations at ..... Port, I hereby confirm the accuracy of all information and documents submitted within the delivery order/Port Clearance Certificate application.

1) The owner/operator/technical and commercial manager of the said vessel is not affiliated with Israel in any way (regardless of shareholding amount or percentage, none of its partners are Israeli citizens, residents, or entities established in Israel).

2) No cargo destined to or originating from Israeli ports shall be loaded/unloaded or transhipped on the vessel, nor shall any transit loading/discharging to or from Israeli ports take place.

3) The vessel does not carry any IMDG Code Class 1 or Class 7 cargo, including military vehicles or equipment, destined for Israeli ports without any transit procedure.

In the event that any inconsistency with the above declarations is identified, all port expenses and any legal liability arising shall be borne exclusively by our agency/company. We hereby declare and undertake accordingly.

Address: .....

Date: .../.../.....

Authorized Agency Signatory/ Name: .....

Annex 1: Ship Agent's personnel identification card(the signatory)

2: BIMCO (SHIPMAN 2009- Standart Ship Management Agreement Part-I) belonging to the vessel.