

Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command
Customer and Carrier Advisory
May 20, 2025
CA-24-04-01/0023
Update 1

Subject: Advisory for cargo movement within and to the Kingdom of Bahrain CA

Purpose: To provide the Department of Defense (DoD) shippers, booking offices, and commercial carriers guidance for shipping cargo within/to via Bahrain.

Be Advised: DoD shippers, booking offices, and commercial carriers should comply with the following guidance when shipping cargo within/to Bahrain.

1. Shipping Documentation

a. General Information: Shipments require the following documents:

- Commercial Invoice Packing List (CIPL)
- Certificate of Origin (COO)
- Border Crossing Memo (BCM)
- Authorization memo
- Duty Fee Exemption & Entry Clearance Request of US Military Cargo via the King Fahd Causeway (Bahrain-Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) Land Border)

Upon request, the 831st Transportation Battalion's Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment (HHD) can issue a CIPL and COO within 24 hours.

b. Cargo moving to/from Sheikh Isa Airbase requires Bahrain Ministry of Interior (MOI) approval.

c. Customs approval timelines are:

- 4 days for urgent requests (with justification/O6 memo)
- 16 days for standard movements
- 16 days for movements to/from Isa AB
- 30 days for movements using the Bahrain-KSA causeway
- 60 days for vehicles

2. Cargo Requiring Special Import Permission. The following items require additional permission prior to cargo clearance/movement:

- Communications Equipment
- Weapons
- Ammunition
- Armaments

- Explosives
 - Unmanned Systems (aerial, surface, underwater)
 - Robots
 - Vehicles (wheeled and tracked)
 - Weapons Magazines
- a. Shipments containing any of the items listed above should be declared to the Host Nation Coordination Cell (HNCC) when the initial request for import is submitted for routing/approval. Attempting to import the cargo without written preapproval will result in the cargo being frustrated and/or confiscated.
 - b. Requests for import of the items listed above can take up to **16 days**, not including Bahrain holidays. Approval to import unmanned systems, drones, robots, and robotic parts can take up to 30 days.
 - c. A ground movement request (GMR) is required when transporting cargo identified above to/from a Bahrain Defense Force (BDF) location (Sheikh Isa AB, BDF Main Stores, Ranges, etc.), Mina Salman Port (including the Finger Pier), Khalifa Bin Salman Port, or the King Fahd Causeway.
 - d. The Naval Support Activity (NSA) Bahrain HNCC will process MOI customs requests and GMRs together to align with the requested cargo movement timeline. Upon GMR approval, the HNCC will email the approval letter to the carrier/shipper. The carrier/shipper is required to coordinate a police escort with the Shore Battle Space via email at jsc-bahrain@us.navy.mil or via DSN phone 439-3299 (Commercial +973 1785-3299). The carrier/shipper **MUST** retain a copy of the approved GMR in-hand when transporting the cargo.

3. Importing Vehicles into Bahrain

- a. **General Information:** The Bahrain Customs Department requires the following information to be stated on the CIPL, COO, and Customs Clearance Request before vehicles will be accepted for import:
 - Make
 - Model/Type
 - Wheel plan (no. of tires)
 - Color
 - Engine Number
 - VIN/Chassis/Frame Number
 - Type of Fuel (Gasoline, Diesel, LPG, Electric, etc.)
 - Manufacturing Country
 - Manufacturing Year
- b. **Shipper's Responsibility:** Provide CIPL and COO with the vehicle's details as shown in Attachment A. The vehicle's information must be provided to the

carrier prior to lift at origin since approval can take up to 60 days. Attempts to import vehicles without prior approval will result in the cargo becoming frustrated and incurring detention and/or port storage charges. If the shipper is not able to provide the required information after the cargo has reached the port of entry, the container will have to be opened to retrieve the data, resulting in additional charges (e.g., shifting charges, un-stuffing/stuffing, etc.). This is done via joint survey by the carrier and USG representative on-ground.

- c. Carrier's Responsibility:** Carriers must ensure that the vehicle's details are provided by the shipper/customer and are listed on the CIPL/COO prior to lift at origin (POE). Carriers should ensure this information is provided along with MOI clearance requests to prevent unnecessary delays in cargo movement.

4. Cargo via Bahrain

- a. General Information:** MOI approval is required for the following:

- 1) General military equipment, communications gear, weapons, ammunitions, armaments, explosives, unmanned systems (aerial, surface, underwater), and robots entering the Kingdom of Bahrain at any port of entry.
- 2) When moving general non-military/military cargo, arms, ammunition and explosives (AA&E), communications gear, or unmanned systems to/from a BDF location (Isa AB, BDF Main Stores, Ranges, etc.), Mina Salman Port (MSP / Finger Pier), Khalifa Bin Salman Port (KBSP), or to/from any other Bahraini facility.

- b. Customs**

- 1) Carriers should submit CIPL/COO, MOI customs request (Attachment B), Ground Movement Request [GMR] (Attachment C), vehicle/driver information enclosure (Attachment D), and cargo list per vehicle enclosure (Attachment E) to the HNCC via e-mail hncc_bahrain@us.navy.mil.
- 2) The standard customs request timeline is **16 days** from date of request. Customs requests are only accepted by the MOI office from the HNCC on Tuesdays and Wednesdays between 0800-1330.
- 3) If the cargo contains communications equipment, weapons, ammunitions, explosives, or unmanned systems, it must be declared in the MOI request in the item description section. This cargo must be a separate MOI request from general military cargo.

- 4) In urgent scenarios, if MOI customs approval is not received in time for an operationally required movement, the shipper should request an expedited customs request with an O6 justification letter.
- 5) Once MOI customs is approved, the HNCC will provide approval letter to the carrier/shipper, and the MOI office will forward approval letter to Bahrain's Customs Office. Carrier must have a copy on hand.
- 6) MOI customs approvals are valid for 30 days.

c. Ground Movement Requests (GMR) / Police Escorts

- 1) HNCC will process MOI customs request and GMR together to align with cargo movement timeline. Once GMR is approved, HNCC will provide approval letter to the carrier/shipper. The carrier/shipper will coordinate police escort with Shore Battle Space (SBS) by submitting an escort request (Attachment F) to jsc-bahrain@us.navy.mil. Carrier must have a copy on hand.

****Note:** SBS process is independent of the process to obtain MOI and GMR approvals. The carrier/shipper can coordinate police escort with SBS prior to MOI/GMR approval and adjust movement timeline as needed until MOI and GMR is approved.
- 2) The standard GMR timeline is 16 calendar days. US Forces are advised to refrain from conducting movements after normal working hours and on Bahraini holidays.
- 3) If GMR approval is not received in time for an urgent, operationally required movement, the shipper should request an expedited GMR with an O6 justification letter.
- 4) If the shipper/carrier needs a short-notice after SBS submits police escort schedule to MOI, the shipper/carrier can either submit an O6 request (Attachment G) for an expedited approval or attempt to join another command with scheduled movement on the same day.
- 5) GMR approvals are valid for 72 hours before and after the scheduled ground movements.

POCs:

831st Transportation Battalion – Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment (HHD)

usarmy.bahrain.sddc.list.831st-centcom-det@army.mil

DSN: 318-439-4916/9809/3754

COMM: +973 1785-4916/9198/3754

831st Transportation Battalion - S3 (Operations)

usarmy.bahrain.sddc.list.831st-ops@army.mil

DSN: 318-439-9202/4954/3816

COMM: +973 1785-9202/4954/3816

OCCASWA/Quality Assurance:

usarmy.bahrain.595-trans-bde.mbx.occaswa-qa@army.mil

DSN: 318-439-6740/8231

COMM: +973 1785-6740/8231

OCCASWA/Booking:

usarmy.bahrain.595-trans-bde.mbx.occaswa-booking@army.mil

DSN: 318-439-6639/8231

COMM: +973 1785-6639/8231

USCENTCOM Customs Office (Agricultural Inspections)

DSN: 318-480-4359

COMM: +966 2202-7301, then 480-4359

Shore Battle Space

jsc-bahrain@us.navy.mil

DSN: 318-439-3485

COMM: +973 1785-3485

Host Nation Coordination Cell (HNCC)

HNCC_Bahrain@us.navy.mil

DSN: 318-439-7207

COMM: +973 1785-7207

Expiration: N/A

Category: Ocean/Barge

Attachments:

- Attachment A: O6 Justification Letter Template
- Attachment B: Vehicle Information Required Sample
- Attachment C: HNCC MOI Customs Template
- Attachment D: HNCC GMR Template
- Attachment E: Vehicle Driver Information Example
- Attachment F: Cargo List Per Vehicle Example
- Attachment G: SBS Escort Request

Attachment A: O6 Justification Letter Example

COMMAND LETTERHEAD

23 October 2023

From: O-6 and above
To: Host Nation Coordination Cell Customs and Movement Department
Subject: EXPEDITED CUSTOMS REQUEST JUSTIFICATION LETTER

1. Body: Letter should answer the following: 1) why the request does not meet the lead time; 2) why the request cannot push right to meet the lead time; 3) risk to mission/personnel if the request is not supported as is.
2. POC. Email addresses, Office phone numbers, and Cell phone numbers (if necessary).

sign
FI. SI. LASTNAME

PLEASE NOTE: A justification letter to the Senior Defense Official DOES NOT GUARANTEE an approval from HOST NATION / BAHRAIN DEFENCE FORCE. It is only to provide the necessary information for the HNCC to engage with Bahraini leadership.

Attachment B: Vehicle Information Required

[illegible]

Attachment C: HNCC MOI Customs Template

**Host Nation Coordination Cell - Bahrain
Customs and Movements Department
Customs Request**

HNCC MOI/24-0000
DD MMM YY

Lieutenant General Tariq Hassan Al Hassan
Chief of Public Security
Ministry of Interior
Kingdom of Bahrain

Your Excellency,

We are writing to forward a standard request for customs clearance and appropriate escorts for the following **unmanned system and robots equipment**. We respectfully request the Ministry of Interior allow the **unmanned system and robots equipment** listed here to arrive to NSA III, AVUNIT and to pass customs inspection without fees or delays. The below unmanned systems will be used throughout the AOR for training and contingency operations. The ground movement requests, **HNCC BDF/24-0000** has been approved by the Directorate of Military Cooperation.

Origin	NSA III, AVUNIT
Destination	NSA II
Date(s)	25 May 24 - 25 Jun 24
Contact	POC
56.1 N4 Contact	POC/Email/Contact Number

Quantity	Description/Nomenclature	Serial #

Please address any questions to the Host Nation Coordination Cell Customs and Movement Department by phone at +973-1785-6053 or via email at HNCC_Bahrain@us.navy.mil. Please accept our continued appreciation for the Kingdom's unparalleled support, and be assured of my highest respect and warmest regards.

Very respectfully,

C. M. Black
Director
Customs and Movements Department
Host Nation Coordination Cell

***PLEASE HAVE USV/UAV/UUV AND ROBOTS AND THEIR ACCESSORIES ON THEIR OWN CUSTOMS FORM ***

PLEASE LIMIT THE USE OF ACRONYMS WHEN LISTING EQUIPMENT

Attachment D: GMR Template

**Host Nation Coordination Cell - Bahrain
Customs and Movements Department
Ground Movement Request**

HNCC BDF/23-XXX
27 September 2023

Rear Admiral Mohammed Yousif Al Asam
Director of Military Cooperation
Headquarters, Bahrain Defence Force
Kingdom of Bahrain

Dear Rear Admiral Mohammed,

We respectfully request access for the following ground movement. Please provide approval to include 72 hours before and after the scheduled time. The Ministry of Interior will provide escorts for this movement.

ORIGIN	Bahrain Customs Border
INTERMEDIATE	N/A
DESTINATION	Isa Air Base
TIME/DATE	1000/ August 09, 2023
CARGO	See Enclosure (1)
VEHICLES	See Enclosure (2)
POINT OF CONTACT	POC Rank and Name +973 1111-1111 (must be Bahraini phone number, no DSN or US)

Please address any questions to the Host Nation Coordination Cell Customs and Movement Department by phone at +973-1785-7207 or via email at HNCC_Bahrain@us.navy.mil. Please accept our continued appreciation for the Kingdom's unparalleled support, and be assured of my highest respect and warmest personal regards.

Very respectfully and
Sincerely yours,

R. A. Edwards
Director
Customs and Movements Department
Host Nation Coordination Cell

- (1) Enclosure: Vehicle/Driver Information (should include year/make/model/color/plate # w/ country for the vehicle, name and ID #, and citizenship for driver)
(2) Cargo List Per Vehicle (excel document preferred if more than 5 line items; description, qty, serial number/hull number/NEW)

Attachment E: Vehicle Driver Information

[illegible]

Attachment F: Cargo List Per Vehicle

ITEM	PCFN	TCN	LGL BOOKING NUMBER	DESTINATION	PHOTO	MAKE	LADING DESCRIPTION	DESCRIPTION	CHASSIS/SERIAL #	ARMOR ED	COMMERCIAL MILITARY	BUMPER #	VEHICLE TYPE	VEHICLE BRAND	MODEL	CONDITION	COLOR	CHASSIS NUMBER	ENGINE SERIAL NUMBER	ENGINE CAPACITY	YEAR BUILT	HS CODE	Country of origin
1	337098	AVAXCB08ID000600X	B202308185396	ISA AIR BASE, BAHRAIN (CEBS)		M108A1P2V0V	PATRIOT ANT MISS GP (B34)	TRK CG LVB V/MRE V0VW	J430024TE-FY	x	MILITARY	B34	HBUZ	Outlook Defense	AJES3A-1	GOOD	Tan	B34	660180	7.2 L	2011		USA
2	337098	AVAXCB08ID000600X	B202308185396	ISA AIR BASE, BAHRAIN (CEBS)		ANUTSM-21A	BAT MAINT CNTR ANUTSM-21 (B21T)	BAT MAINT CNTR ANUTSM-21 (B21T)	910425	NO	MILITARY	B21T	TLR	Outlook Defense	ANUTSM-21A	GOOD	Tan	B21T	N/A	N/A	2009		USA
3	337098	AVAXCB08ID004400X	B202308185396	ISA AIR BASE, BAHRAIN (CEBS)		PU-800A	GEN SET DED TLR MTD (B23ET)	GEN SET DED TLR MTD (B23ET)	T-19-006	NO	MILITARY	B23ET	GEVMEY	Outlook Defense	PU-800	GOOD	Tan	B23ET	T-19-006	2.4 L	2004		USA
4	337098	AVAXCB08ID000400X	B202308185396	ISA AIR BASE, BAHRAIN (CEBS)		MSE XM903	L3 G.M. SEMITRLR MMTD MSE (B41S)	L3 G.M. SEMITRLR MMTD MSE (B41S)	650161	NO	MILITARY	B41S	TLR	Outlook Defense	MSE XM903	GOOD	Tan	B41S	650161	5.8 L	2018		USA
5	337098	AVAXCB08ID000600X	B202308185396	ISA AIR BASE, BAHRAIN (CEBS)		MSE XM903	L3 G.M. SEMITRLR MMTD MSE (B42S)	L3 G.M. SEMITRLR MMTD MSE (B42S)	740130	NO	MILITARY	B42S	TLR	Outlook Defense	MSE XM903	GOOD	Tan	B42S	740130	5.8 L	2018		USA
6	337098	AVAXCB08ID000600X	B202308185396	ISA AIR BASE, BAHRAIN (CEBS)		MSE XM903	L3 G.M. SEMITRLR MMTD MSE (B43S)	L3 G.M. SEMITRLR MMTD MSE (B43S)	670242	NO	MILITARY	B43S	TLR	Outlook Defense	MSE XM903	GOOD	Tan	B43S	670242	5.8 L	2018		USA
7	337098	AVAXCB08ID000200X	B202308185396	ISA AIR BASE, BAHRAIN (CEBS)		MSE XM903	L3 G.M. SEMITRLR MMTD MSE (B44S)	L3 G.M. SEMITRLR MMTD MSE (B44S)	700291	NO	MILITARY	B44S	TLR	Outlook Defense	MSE XM903	GOOD	Tan	B44S	700291	5.8 L	2018		USA
8	337098	AVAXCB08ID000300X	B202308185396	ISA AIR BASE, BAHRAIN (CEBS)		MSE XM903	L3 G.M. SEMITRLR MMTD MSE (B45S)	L3 G.M. SEMITRLR MMTD MSE (B45S)	700290	NO	MILITARY	B45S	TLR	Outlook Defense	MSE XM903	GOOD	Tan	B45S	700290	5.8 L	2018		USA
9	337098	AVAXCB08ID000500X	B202308185396	ISA AIR BASE, BAHRAIN (CEBS)		MSE XM903	L3 G.M. SEMITRLR MMTD MSE (B46S)	L3 G.M. SEMITRLR MMTD MSE (B46S)	660114	NO	MILITARY	B46S	TLR	Outlook Defense	MSE XM903	GOOD	Tan	B46S	660114	5.8 L	2018		USA
10	337098	AVAXCB08ID004600X	B202308185396	ISA AIR BASE, BAHRAIN (CEBS)		M809A2	CFMT SHP EOP CONT TRK MTD (E80B)	CFMT SHP EOP CONT TRK MTD (E80B)	188954	NO	MILITARY	E80B	HMMVVE	Outlook Defense	M809A2	GOOD	Tan	E80B	188954	6.5 L	2008		USA
11	337098	AVAXCB08ID001000X	B202308185396	ISA AIR BASE, BAHRAIN (CEBS)		M8032	SEMTLR VAN GM RPT3 (B22T)	SEMTLR VAN GM RPT3 (B22T)	910433	NO	MILITARY	B22T	TLR	Outlook Defense	M8032	GOOD	Tan	B22T	N/A	N/A	2009		USA
12	337098	AVAXCB08ID000400X	B202308185396	ISA AIR BASE, BAHRAIN (CEBS)		M809T	TRK UTL HYY HMMV/V (E50)	TRK UTL HYY HMMV/V (E50)	502032	NO	MILITARY	E50	HFEBM	Outlook Defense	M809T	GOOD	Tan	E50	502032	6.2 L	2011		USA

Attachment G: SBS Escort Request

CTF SBS ESCORT REQUEST TEMPLATE

CC the JSC-Bahrain email address on your requests

JSC-BAHRAIN@US.NAVY.MIL

Confirm all movements with the JCTC MOI Escort Scheduler(Mr. Mohammed)
+973-3218-7545

* All escort movements taking place **after 1000L** must be confirmed by the movement POC 90mins prior to movement.

* All escort movements taking place **from 0700 to 1000** must be confirmed by the movement POC the previous day before 2200.

ESCORT REQUEST

REQUESTING COMMAND: **(CTF-SBS)**

POC Present During Escort: **LT Squared Away**

POC Non-DSN Phone Number: **+973-1234-5678 or WhatsApp +1-123-456-7890**

POC EMAIL: **squared.away.mil@us.navy.mil**

MOVEMENT TIME: **1000**

DATES: **21OCT2021**

of Vehicles: **1**

START LOCATION: **(i.e. NSA II CCW)**

END LOCATION: **(i.e. NSA III AV UNIT)**

QTY	FULL NOMENCLATURE (NO ACRONYMS)
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1	DRAKE Counter-UAS Receiver/Transmitter
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1	Control Unit
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1	Cable Set
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