

Joint Maritime Information Center

JMIC Advisory Note: 002-26 April 16, 2026

Blockade Update – Contraband Items

Area of Concern:

Arabian Gulf – Strait of Hormuz – Gulf of Oman – Arabian Sea

JMIC# 002 - 26

Regional Threat Level: **CRITICAL**

1. Situational Awareness of Activity in the Arabian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz (SoH), Gulf of Oman, and Arabian Sea

JMIC is sharing information on the following pages for the awareness of owners, operators, and Mariners. Specifically, it details U.S. Navy activity that vessels may encounter regarding ongoing operations.

Due to ongoing regional military operations the maritime security threat level in the SoH is **CRITICAL**. Mariners should expect increased naval presence, enhanced force protection postures, potential VHF hailing, and congestion near anchorage areas.

Masters should consider:

- Continuous monitoring of VHF Channel 16
- AIS transmission in accordance with company policy
- The proximity and dangers of any reported mines or threats along intended transit routes
- Reporting unusual activity to recognized reporting centers

UKMTO: watchkeepers@ukmto.org +44 (0)2392222060



On 13 April 2026, U.S. Central Command commenced enforcement of a naval blockade of all Iranian ports and coastal areas.

This blockade will be enforced in the Gulf of Oman and Arabian Sea east of the Strait of Hormuz. The blockade encompasses the entirety of the Iranian coastline to include but not limited to ports and oil terminals. The blockade applies to all vessel traffic, regardless of flag. Any vessel entering or departing the blockaded area without authorization is subject to interception, diversion, and capture. The blockade will not impede neutral transit passage through the Strait of Hormuz to or from non-Iranian destinations. Neutral vessels may still be subject to the right of visit and search to determine the presence of contraband cargo. Humanitarian shipments including food, medical supplies, and other goods essential for survival of the civilian populations will be permitted, subject to inspection.

UPDATE

1. In addition to enforcing the blockade, all Iranian vessels, vessels with active OFAC sanctions, and vessels suspected of carrying contraband, are subject to belligerent right to visit and search. These vessels, regardless of location, are subject to visit, board, search, and seizure.
2. The following is a non-exhaustive list of contraband items that are subject to capture at any place beyond neutral territory, if their destination is the territory belonging to, or occupied by, Iran. Contraband is defined as goods that are destined for an enemy and that may be susceptible to use in armed conflict.

ABSOLUTE CONTRABAND

Weapons and Weapon Systems - All weapons and weapon systems of any type are absolute contraband, including but not limited to:

- **Small Arms and Light Weapons**
- **Artillery and Heavy Weapons**
- **Armored Fighting Vehicles**
- **Missiles and Rockets**
- **Naval Weapons Systems**
- **Aircraft Weapons Systems**
- **Unmanned Weapon Systems**
- **Directed Energy Weapons**
- **Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Weapons**
- **Nuclear Weapon Components**

Ammunition and Explosives - All ammunition and explosives are absolute contraband, including but not limited to:

- **Small Arms Ammunition**
- **Artillery Ammunition**
- **Mortar Ammunition**
- **Tank and Anti-Tank Ammunition**
- **Missile and Rocket Warheads**
- **Aircraft Munitions**
- **Naval Munitions**
- **Grenades and Demolitions**
- **Fuses and Firing Devices**
- **Explosive Precursors and Components**

- **Detonators or initiators, including those specifically designed for nuclear weapons**

Military Vehicles and Platforms - Military vehicles and platforms specifically designed for combat or combat support are absolute contraband, including but not limited to:

- **Combat Aircraft**
- **Military Helicopters**
- **Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and Systems**
- **Naval Combatants**
- **Military Support Vehicles**
- **Unmanned Surface and Underwater Vehicles and Systems**

Military Electronics and Fire Control Systems - Electronic systems specifically designed for military applications are absolute contraband, including but not limited to:

- **Fire Control Systems**
- **Military Radar Systems**
- **Military Communications Systems**
- **Electronic Warfare Systems**
- **Command and Control Systems**
- **Navigation and Targeting Systems**

Military Aircraft and Missile Components - Components specifically designed for military aircraft, missiles, and space systems are absolute contraband, including but not limited to:

- **Aircraft Propulsion Components**
- **Missile Propulsion Components**
- **Guidance and Control Components**
- **Airframe Components for Military Aircraft**
- **Missile Airframe Components**

- **Missile Delivery Systems**

- **Guidance systems, reentry vehicles, or other components, including those specifically designed for nuclear weapon delivery**

Military Production Equipment and Technology - Equipment and technology specifically designed for the production of military systems are absolute contraband, including but not limited to:

- **Weapons Production Equipment**
- **Missile and Rocket Production Equipment**
- **Military Electronics Production Equipment**
- **Technical Data and Software**

Military Sensors and Intelligence Systems - Sensors and intelligence collection systems specifically designed for military applications are absolute contraband, including but not limited to:

- **Electro-Optical and Infrared Systems**
- **Radar and Electronic Intelligence Systems**
- **Acoustic Sensors**
- **Military Satellite Systems**

Specialized Military Equipment - Specialized equipment designed for military operations is absolute contraband, including but not limited to:

- **Night Vision and Thermal Imaging**
- **Military Body Armor and Helmets**
- **Military Training Systems**
- **Special Operations Equipment**
- **Counter-IED and EOD Equipment**
- **Military Cyber Warfare Equipment**

CONDITIONAL CONTRABAND

Petroleum, Oil, and Lubricants (POL) - Petroleum products and lubricants are conditional contraband due to their essential role in military operations and their contribution to Iran's war-sustaining economy.

- **Crude Oil**
- **Refined Petroleum Products**
- **Military Fuel Indicators**
- **Lubricants and Specialty Petroleum Products**

Nuclear Material: Contraband subject to seizure includes any nuclear material, equipment, or components that could be used by Iran to develop nuclear weapons. Conditional contraband includes any materials, technology, or equipment with civilian applications that could also be used in nuclear weapon development, such as high-strength aluminum, maraging steel, or specialized electronics. This includes, but is not limited to:

- **Fissile Material**
- **Highly Enriched Uranium (HEU)**
- **Plutonium suitable for weapons use**
- **Neutron generators or similar devices used in nuclear weapon designs**
- **Centrifuge and Enrichment Equipment**
- **Gas centrifuges and associated components used for uranium enrichment**
- **Feed and withdrawal systems for enrichment processes**
- **Reactor-Related Equipment**
- **Heavy water or heavy water production equipment**
- **Reactor components designed for plutonium production**

Metals and Raw Materials - Metals and raw materials used in military production are conditional contraband that is liable to capture when destined for Iran's defense industrial base or when quantities and specifications indicate intended military end-use. This includes, but is not limited to:

- **Iron, Steel, Aluminum**
- **Specialty Metals and Alloys**
- **Carbon Fiber and Composite Materials**
- **Rare Earth Elements and Strategic Materials**

Machinery, Mechanical Appliances, and Manufacturing Equipment – Machinery, mechanical appliances, and manufacturing equipment that can be used for both civilian and military production are conditional contraband that is liable to capture when the totality of circumstances indicates intended military end-use. This includes, but is not limited to:

- **Machine Tools**
- **Composite Manufacturing Equipment**
- **Forging and Casting Equipment**
- **Electronics Manufacturing Equipment**

Dual-Use Electronics and Components - Electronic components and systems with both civilian and military applications are conditional contraband that is liable to capture when circumstances indicate intended military end-use. This includes, but is not limited to:

- **Microelectronics and Integrated Circuits**
- **Sensors and Transducers**
- **Power Electronics**
- **RF and Microwave Components**
- **Specialty Electronics for Guidance Systems**

Chemicals and Chemical Precursors - Chemicals with both civilian and military applications are conditional contraband that is liable to capture when circumstances indicate intended use in weapons production, military explosives, or rocket propellants. This includes, but is not limited to:

- **Rocket Propellant Chemicals**

- **High Explosive Precursors**
- **Chemical Weapon Precursors**

Vehicles and Transportation Equipment - Vehicles and transportation equipment with both civilian and military applications are conditional contraband that is liable to capture when circumstances indicate intended military end-use or support to military logistics.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- **Heavy Trucks and Prime Movers**
- **Construction and Engineering Equipment**
- **Aircraft and Aircraft Components**
- **Marine Vessels and Components**

Information Technology and Communications - Information technology and communications equipment with both civilian and military applications are conditional contraband that is liable to capture when circumstances indicate intended use in military command and control, intelligence systems, or cyber warfare. This includes, but is not limited to:

- **Computing Systems**
- **Communications Equipment**
- **Cybersecurity and Encryption Equipment**

Energy and Power Generation Equipment - Power generation and energy infrastructure equipment are conditional contraband that is liable to capture when they are destined for use to support Iran's war-sustaining economy or military infrastructure.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- **Power Generation Equipment**
- **Petroleum Infrastructure Equipment**