

IRAQ – INSURANCE GUIDE

Iraq Investment and Reconstruction Task Force (IIRTF)

U.S. Department of Commerce

December 2010

This document serves as a resource to provide interested individuals and companies with a broad overview of insurance coverage issues for Iraq. Companies seeking to do business in Iraq should conduct their own due diligence on appropriate insurance options. This document does not constitute business or legal advice.

State Department Travel Warning: Iraq continues to experience violence and terrorism. The current State Department travel warning, [available here](#), warns U.S. citizens of the risks inherent in travel to Iraq and recommends against all but essential travel within the country.

Insurance Products Offered & Underwriting: Generally, insurance products offered in the U.S. are also offered for Iraq, including life insurance, personal accident insurance, health insurance, and workers compensation insurance. Typically, insurance coverage may be packaged for time frames as short as 24 hours and as long as 1 year. When issuing a policy for Iraq, insurers often request information about the itineraries, travel arrangements, housing accommodations, nature of work, and size of Personal Security Details (PSD) that employees will use while in country. Insurers use this information to underwrite the risk associated with various types of work and activities in different parts of the country. Below is a list of generalized coverage information and underwriting procedures for Iraq:

○ ***Life Insurance:***

- *Coverage* – Life insurance policies for covered persons in Iraq generally cover death by natural causes. Death by unnatural causes, such as death caused by violence or terrorism, is generally covered by a separate insurance product which is typically called Personal Accident insurance. Life insurance policies may include the evacuation and repatriation of the deceased for burial.
- *Underwriting* – A person may need to complete a medical evaluation, personal financial questionnaire, and corporate questionnaire to apply for life insurance.

○ ***Personal Accident Insurance:***

- *Coverage* – Personal accident insurance generally covers persons for non-natural causes of death, dismemberment, permanent total disability, temporary total disability, accident related medical expenses, as well as the evacuation and repatriation of the injured or deceased caused by violence or terrorism. Based on the clients' requirements, the insurer may customize policies and offer 24 hour coverage for short-term trips. Clients taking short-term trips may request an extended plan to cover any medical expenses and evacuations due to sickness.
- *Underwriting* – A person may complete a personal financial questionnaire and corporate questionnaire that defines the worth of the insured to self and to the

corporation. The insurance underwriters typically also consider the accessibility and quality of medical treatment available to the insured when determining pricing and coverage. If the client works on a U.S. military base, the proximity of medical facilities on site may reduce the associated risk to health and life. If the client does not work on or near a U.S. military facility, the insurer may consider the accessibility of local hospitals and the level at which local hospitals are resourced when determining pricing and coverage. Many Iraqi hospitals can only stabilize patients and will have to send patients to neighboring countries for full treatment and recovery. Insurers may have partnerships with medical providers in neighboring countries such as the Jordan, Kuwait, and the U.A.E.

○ ***Health Insurance:***

- *Coverage* – Health insurance issued by foreign insurance companies for foreigners traveling or working in Iraq generally allows the insured to seek medical treatment from any doctor, clinic, or hospital available to them. If an individual has permission to access U.S. military facilities, it may be possible to access the military’s medical care on the base and or local Iraqi medical care. This type of insurance covers routine medical expenses.
- *Underwriting* – Generally, the individual may need to complete a medical evaluation to apply for Iraq-based health insurance. The insurance underwriters will consider the client’s location and the accessibility and quality of nearby healthcare for the same reason as explained in personal accident insurance. As adequate healthcare may be inaccessible or under-resourced, clients may benefit from an insurer’s partnerships with medical care providers in neighboring countries, if they exist.

○ ***Workers Compensation & Defense Base Act Insurance:***

- *Coverage* – Workers compensation insurance covers workers for on-the-job injuries. Specific to Iraq, workers compensation is available for private employees and employers that do not work on U.S. military bases or on U.S. government funded projects.
- *Coverage* – Defense Base Act (DBA) Insurance is the form of workers compensation that may be required for persons, including local nationals, who work on U.S. military bases or on U.S. government-funded projects located outside the U.S. The DBA statute can be accessed [here](#).
- *Underwriting* – Generally, a company may be required to complete a corporate questionnaire to apply to secure workers compensation insurance or DBAI coverage. Clients may also need to identify their nationalities, as their home country may have specific regulations for workers compensation.

○ **Other Insurance Products:**

- Other types of insurance that are available include: kidnap and ransom, hijack, detention, emergency evacuation, political evacuation, global contractors, global auto, transit, cargo, property, liability, and travel.

Iraq Insurance Legal & Regulatory Framework: The Iraqi Insurance Diwan sets the policies and procedures that regulate and oversee the insurance sector in Iraq. More information about the Iraq Insurance Diwan and the relevant legislation and regulations is available [here](#).

Obtaining Coverage: In some cases, companies and individuals may be contractually obligated to obtain certain types of insurance under the terms of their contracts. Companies can use research and referrals to help them better understand the specialized insurance coverage needed for Iraq. An internet search using the terms “Iraq insurance,” “conflict zone insurance,” or “war and terrorism insurance” can start the research process. Companies may also ask their regular insurance provider for referrals or recommendations.

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