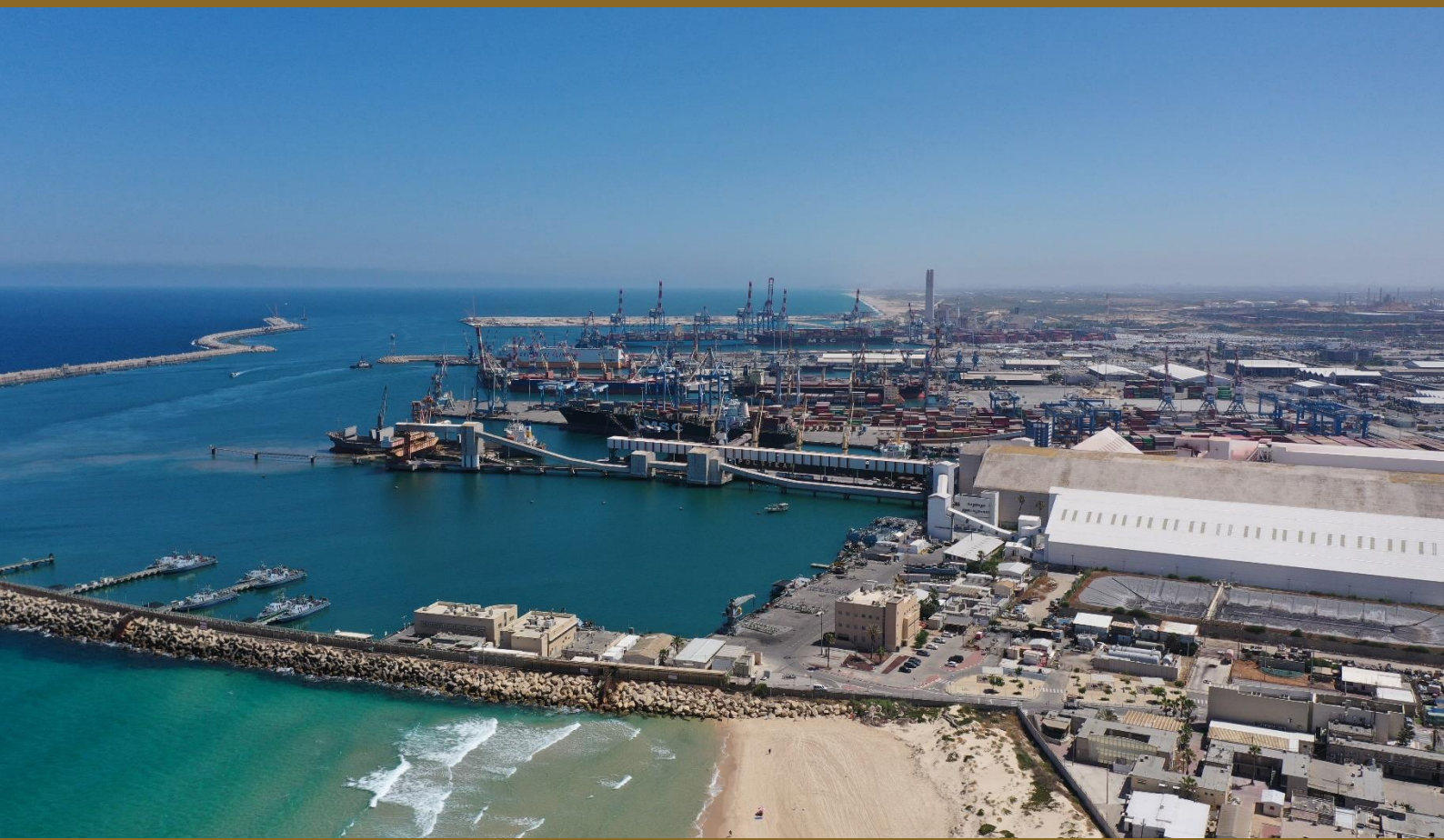




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# ISRAEL - COMMERCIAL PORT OPERATIONS SECURITY UPDATE

OCTOBER 2024

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## ISRAEL PORT STATUS AND RISK ASSESSMENT – COMMERCIAL PORT OPERATIONS

### Executive Summary

1. Ongoing conflict across the Levant increases the risk to Israel's commercial ports. Nonetheless, despite recent rocket attacks on Israel, notably the port city of Haifa, we assess the overall risk to commercial ships operating in Israel's three major ports to be LOW-MODERATE. Vessels operating in Israeli ports are however assessed to be at HIGH risk of Houthi attack if they transit the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.

### Background

2. Due to their proximity to Gaza and Lebanon, Israel's commercial ports are vulnerable to rocket attacks by Hamas and Hezbollah. The port cities of Haifa, Ashkelon and Ashdod have all been targeted during the recent fighting but to date, the commercial ports have not been hit due largely to Israel's robust security apparatus.

3. Despite having such a highly developed surveillance and defence system, the risk of further terrorist attacks against Israel from land, sea and air is highly probable. Haifa being the most northerly is at greatest risk from an attack by Hezbollah, especially given its strategic importance as both a civilian and military hub. Ashkelon port is a critical point for Israel's energy supply housing vital oil pipelines and fuel storage facilities. The vulnerability of Ashkelon's port infrastructure to rockets fired from Gaza led initially to the closure of the port but it has been operating normally since Israel reduced Hamas' missile launching capability. However, the threat of a missile and drone attack by Hezbollah and the Yemen Houthi remains.

#### 4. Israeli Ports - Current Operational Status.

- a. Haifa. **Open** - All Haifa port services are operating normally.
- b. Ashdod. **Open** - All Ashdod port services are operating normally with some restrictions on HAZMAT movements.
- c. Ashkelon. **Open** - All Ashkelon port services are operating normally.



### Risk Assessment – Israeli Port Operations

5. Despite recent attacks on Israel's northern cities of Haifa and Tiberius, resulting in some rockets impacting residential suburbs, we assess the overall risk to commercial ships operating in Israel's three major ports to be LOW-MODERATE. Ships operating in Israeli ports are currently not assessed to be the specific target of Hezbollah's rocket attacks although the risk of receiving collateral damage is possible if port infrastructure is hit. Ships operating in Israeli ports are assessed to be at HIGH risk of Houthi attack if they subsequently transit the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.