Ministry of SMEs and Startups

Press Release
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www.mss.go.kr

Emergency Logistics Voucher to Support Exporting SMEs Amid Middle East Disruptions

Small and medium-sized exporters in Korea are facing rising logistics costs as geopolitical tensions in the Middle East disrupt major shipping routes. In response, the Ministry of SMEs and Startups (MSS) is rolling out an emergency logistics voucher program worth KRW 10.5 billion to help affected companies stabilize their export operations.

Recent disruptions around key maritime corridors – including the Red Sea and the Strait of Hormuz – have driven up ocean freight rates and additional charges such as war risk surcharges. These sudden cost increases have placed particular strain on smaller exporters with limited financial buffers.

To help offset these pressures, MSS will provide targeted logistics vouchers to SMEs exporting to the Middle East or holding confirmed contracts in the region. Each eligible company may receive up to KRW 10.5 million, with the government covering 70 percent of the costs.

The scope of support has also been expanded to reflect challenges reported by exporters on the ground. Newly covered expenses include war risk surcharges (WRS), return shipping costs due to port closures, detention fees incurred at local ports, and rerouting costs when shipments must be redirected to alternative destinations.

Companies already selected for the 2026 Export Voucher Program may also receive additional support if they can demonstrate export activity to Middle Eastern markets, allowing the policy to respond more flexibly to evolving conditions.

To ensure assistance reaches businesses quickly, MSS has introduced a fast-track review system that allows vouchers to be issued within three days of application. The process has been streamlined so that companies only need to submit documentation verifying export activity and evidence of logistics-related losses.

Applications will open on March 20 through the Export Voucher online platform (www.exportvoucher.com). Further information is available through the Export Voucher Support Center.

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