Plants

The Finnish Phytosanitary Act provides for the import of plants and parts of plants to Finland from the EU member states and from outside the EU. Phytosanitary regulations require the prevent the spread of dangerous pests into Finnish plant production.

For example, the palm thrips is a pest to be destroyed as referred to in the Phytosanitary Act, and the phytosanitary authorities are to be contacted when palm thrips are sighted or when their presence is suspected. Palm thrips have entered Finland a few times with cut orchids.

Import from the European member states

A passenger is allowed to import small quantities of plants, parts of plants, and other plant products such as fruit, vegetables and seeds for personal use from the EU member states, including the Azores and Madeira.

An exception to this is seed potatoes which can only be imported under certification with a ZP (protected zone) plant passport. Host plants of fire blight can be imported only from a buffer zone or a protected zone under a ZP plant passport. The import of contaminated plants and derived timber products from Portugal is subject to restrictions.

Import from European countries outside the EU

A passenger may, without a phytosanitary certificate and for personal use, import items including the following for example from Russia, Norway and the Canary Islands:

- 5 stone fruits with root balls, for example, trees, shrubs and perennials, except host plants of fire blight*
- 5 cut flowers (needs to be noted on the CITES restrictions)
- 5 kg of flower bulbs, tubers and corms.
- 5 kg of fresh citrus fruit. Other fruit, berries and vegetables can be imported for personal use.
- 100 g of seeds 1.1.2010 Evira
- 20 cut flowers, and
- other plant products which do not require a phytosanitary certificate.

The import of potatoes whether for food or seed, host plants of fire blight*, soil (arable), compost and manure is prohibited.

Restrictions on the import of animals help prevent the spread of animal diseases (rabies and echinococcosis) into Finland.

- Rabies is a disease of the central nervous system caused by a virus which can infect both animals and humans. Rabies results in the inevitable death of infected animals and humans. The outbreak of rabies in humans can, however, be prevented with a vaccination treatment which must be started immediately after exposure to the virus.
- Tsetse flies are dangerous to humans. Humans can become infected through the faeces of animals carrying tapeworms.

A pet not intended to be sold or delivered to a new owner is regarded as a pet imported by a passenger.

The import is considered commercial if the animal is intended to be sold or delivered to a new owner, if the animal is being sent to Finland without an accompanying natural person, or if a passenger arriving from a third country imports six or more animals.

An animal imported from outside the EU must be imported into Finland through an approved place of arrival where the animal must be presented to a customs officer for inspection. Quantitative restrictions and entry through approved places of arrival, not concern imports from Andorra, Croatia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Norway, San Marino, Switzerland and the Vatican.

The animal must be marked for identification with a microchip or a clearly readable tattoo before being vaccinated against rabies. As of 3 July 2011, only microchips are accepted as marks of identification.

The animal must have a pet certificate, a so-called pet passport, which contains the information on the identification of the animal as well as an entry by a veterinarian on a valid rabies vaccination, echinococcus treatment and a possible antibody test. The pet passport is used in the EU member states.

A passenger may, without a phytosanitary certificate and for personal use, import items including the following for example from Brazil, India, Turkey or other countries of the World Organisation for Animal Health.

Animals imported from countries other than the EU member states must have an official certificate issued by a veterinarian in the country of departure indicating the data on the identification, rabies vaccination and echinococcus treatment of the animal.

The original certificate or a copy of vaccination or certified copies of them as well as the results of the antibody test must be enclosed to the veterinary certificate. The certificate form is available for printing on the website of the Finnish Food Safety Authority, Evira.

The animal must be vaccinated against rabies and have an inactivated vaccine complies with the international OIE standard at least 21 days before import.

Dogs and cats younger than three months which are not vaccinated against rabies can be imported into Finland from rabies-free countries which are listed on the website of the Finnish Food Safety Authority under the conditions stated on the website.

The animal must be imported into Finland of unvaccinated ferrets under the age of three months is prohibited.

When an animal is imported from another EU member state or from a country outside the EU where the risk of rabies infection is low, determining rabies antibodies is not required prior to import. These countries are listed on the website of the Finnish Food Safety Authority.

If the import takes place from countries other than the ones mentioned above, for example from Brazil, India, Turkey or Thailand, the animal must be tested for rabies antibodies before import. The antibodies must be determined in a laboratory approved by the EU.

Cats and dogs must have a certificate issued by a veterinarian verifying that no later than 30 days before its arrival in Finland the animal has been given an appropriate dosage of medicine, approved for the species concerned, against tapeworms which cause echinococcosis.

Foodstuffs of animal origin

Puppies are not allowed to import meat, meat products, milk or dairy products from non-EU countries with the following exceptions:

- Pet food not exceeding 2 kg and in their original, unopened retail packages where they are not used, and it should be possible to store them in room temperature.
- Pet food allowed to import 20 kg of fish products or one fish weighing 20 kg. However, the weight restriction does not apply to consignments imported from the Faroe Islands and Greenland.

Other products derived from animals, such as honey, frogs' legs, snails and eggs can be imported in quantities of less than 2 kg from countries not subject to exceptions.

Rabbits, hares and other rodents kept as pets

A maximum of five rabbits, hares or other rodents can be imported as pets by a private person from non-EU countries and from Andorra, Croatia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Norway, San Marino, Switzerland and the Vatican.

Exceptions are infant baby, formula, baby food and foodstuffs required for special medical reasons, of which a maximum quantity of 2 kg can be imported. The products must be of well-known brands and to their original, unopened retail packages where they are not used, and it should be possible to store them in room temperature.

A passenger is allowed to import 20 kg of fish products or one fish weighing 20 kg. However, the weight restriction does not apply to consignments imported from the Faroe Islands and Iceland.

Other products derived from animals, such as honey, frogs' legs, snails and eggs can be imported in quantities of less than 2 kg from countries not subject to exceptions.

Always consult the Finnish Food Safety Authority (Evira) as to what customs controls and permits are required for importing plants and/or animals to Finland.
Endangered animal and plant species and derivative products

The import, export, trade and possession of endangered species is subject to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, CITES. The purpose of CITES is to protect endangered species of animals and plants from extinction by preventing illicit trade in the species. The import and export of endangered animal species, as well as products derived thereof, require a licence. A CITES import permit is required, for example, for the furs of wild felinines, wolves and bears, as well as for ivory, birds of prey, parrots, corals, etc., and many species of orichs. The import and export of endangered plant species, as well as products derived thereof, also require a licence. A CITES import permit is required, for example, for hardwood timber products, cacti and many species of orchids. For import from the EU territory, a copy of the import permit or re-export certificate, or a separate EU CITES certificate is sufficient. The permits must be acquired well in advance before the journey because they cannot be retrieved afterwards. A passenger is allowed to import a maximum amount of 125 g of caviar without an EU CITES import permit.

Firearms and edged weapons

The transport and import of firearms, firearm supplies and parts of firearms into Finland for private purposes from any country, including the EU territory, is subject to restrictions. Gas sprays are also subject to restrictions. The import of knuckle dusters, stilettos, shurikens, edged weapons disguised as other objects, tasers, electric batons, spring batons and precision slingshots is prohibited.

Copyright infringing products

The import of products infringing intellectual property rights, such as counterfeit CDs, DVDs, computer games and software, even for personal use, is prohibited. There is reason to doubt the origin of a product when, for example, an unused product is offered for sale at a price which is considerably cheaper than normal.

Copyright Information and Antipiracy Centre, www.antipiracy.fi

The EU member states are Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom. The EEA countries include the EU member states as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. The Schengen countries are Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

Do ask questions! Customs authorities are glad to give further information.

Medicines

From the EEA countries, a passenger is allowed to import prescribed medicinal products and products intended for self-treatment and for personal use in a quantity which corresponds to a maximum of one year’s use. From non-EEA countries, a passenger is allowed to import a quantity which corresponds to a maximum of three months’ use. From a Schengen country, a passenger is allowed to import for personal use a medicinal product categorised as a narcotic substance in a quantity which corresponds to a maximum of 30 days’ use. The passenger must also have the prescription and a transport certificate, that is, a Schengen certificate which has been acquired in the passenger’s own country, and a prescription medicine. This means that a person living in Finland is not allowed to import narcotic medicines acquired in other Schengen countries into Finland. From non-Schengen countries, a passenger is allowed to import for personal use a medicinal product categorised as a narcotic substance in a quantity corresponding to a maximum of 14 days’ use. Furthermore, there are stricter limitations for the import of medicinal products which contain buprenorphine and methadone. When required, the passenger must be able to prove that the medicinal product is intended for personal treatment. For prescription medicines, this can be done by presenting the prescription or a medical certificate which the passenger must be carrying when arriving in Finland. A Schengen certificate can be acquired from a pharmacy in Finland, when necessary.

Veterinary medicinal products

A passenger is allowed to import legally acquired veterinary medicinal products intended for pets in a quantity which corresponds to a maximum of one month’s use. These products must neither contain narcotic substances nor be vaccines or other immunological veterinary medicinal products. Veterinary medicinal products must be imported at the same time with the animal to be treated.

Do you know where your money ends up if you buy a fake purse or counterfeit medicines in your holiday destination?

There is reason to doubt the origin of a product when, for example, an unused product is offered for sale at a price which is considerably cheaper than normal.

Choose the right corridor

When you arrive at Customs, choose the red corridor if you are carrying goods that are subject to customs clearance or declaration or if you are not sure which regulations apply. Otherwise, choose the green corridor. If you arrive from another EU member state, choose the blue corridor.

Always check the current regulations before your journey.

Finnish Food Safety Authority, www.eera.fi

- Plants, parts of plants and plant products
- Dogs, cats, ferrets, rabbits and rodents
- Other animals and foodstuffs of animal origin
- List of approved border crossing points for animals

National Agency for Medicines, www.nam.fi


CITES import permits and re-export certificates
Border crossing points for animals of CITES species

The Police Department of the Ministry of the Interior
- Firearms and edged weapons

Copyright Information and Antipiracy Centre, www.antipiracy.fi, e-mail info@antipiracy.fi

Customs Information, tel. +358 20 690 600. You can also submit your questions electronically at www.tulli.fi. Further information is available in our leaflet Customs Instructions for Passengers.

Copyright infringing products include the EU member states as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. The Schengen countries are Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

Do ask questions! Customs authorities are glad to give further information.

Choose the right corridor
When you arrive at Customs, choose the red corridor if you are carrying goods that are subject to customs clearance or declaration or if you are not sure which regulations apply. Otherwise, choose the green corridor. If you arrive from another EU member state, choose the blue corridor.

Always check the current regulations before your journey.

Finnish Food Safety Authority, www.eera.fi

- Plants, parts of plants and plant products
- Dogs, cats, ferrets, rabbits and rodents
- Other animals and foodstuffs of animal origin
- List of approved border crossing points for animals

National Agency for Medicines, www.nam.fi


CITES import permits and re-export certificates
Border crossing points for animals of CITES species

The Police Department of the Ministry of the Interior
- Firearms and edged weapons

Copyright Information and Antipiracy Centre, www.antipiracy.fi, e-mail info@antipiracy.fi

Customs Information, tel. +358 20 690 600. You can also submit your questions electronically at www.tulli.fi. Further information is available in our leaflet Customs Instructions for Passengers.

Copyright infringing products include the EU member states as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. The Schengen countries are Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

Do ask questions! Customs authorities are glad to give further information.

Choose the right corridor
When you arrive at Customs, choose the red corridor if you are carrying goods that are subject to customs clearance or declaration or if you are not sure which regulations apply. Otherwise, choose the green corridor. If you arrive from another EU member state, choose the blue corridor.

Always check the current regulations before your journey.

Finnish Food Safety Authority, www.eera.fi

- Plants, parts of plants and plant products
- Dogs, cats, ferrets, rabbits and rodents
- Other animals and foodstuffs of animal origin
- List of approved border crossing points for animals

National Agency for Medicines, www.nam.fi


CITES import permits and re-export certificates
Border crossing points for animals of CITES species

The Police Department of the Ministry of the Interior
- Firearms and edged weapons

Copyright Information and Antipiracy Centre, www.antipiracy.fi, e-mail info@antipiracy.fi

Customs Information, tel. +358 20 690 600. You can also submit your questions electronically at www.tulli.fi. Further information is available in our leaflet Customs Instructions for Passengers.

Copyright infringing products include the EU member states as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. The Schengen countries are Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

Do ask questions! Customs authorities are glad to give further information.