



**TULLI**  
TULL·CUSTOMS

## Import Restrictions for Passengers



**January 2008**

# Import Restrictions for Passengers

## Plants

### Import from the EU Member States

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

An exception to this is seed potato 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 coniferous plants and timber products thereof from Portugal is subject to restrictions.

### Import from European countries outside the EU

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

- 5 nursery plants with root balls, e.g. trees, shrubs, and perennials, except host plants of fire blight
- 5 pot plants with soil pots
- 3 kg of flower bulbs, tubers, and corms
- 3 kg of fresh citrus fruit. Other fruit, berries and vegetables can be imported for personal use.
- 2 kg of seeds
- cut flowers, bouquets and funeral wreaths for personal use
- other plant products which are not subject to a phytosanitary certificate

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

### Import from countries outside Europe

From countries outside Europe including Turkey, a passenger is allowed to import for personal use parts of plants, e.g. cut flowers except chrysanthemums, carnations, and orchids, as well as seeds and plant products such as vegetables which are not subject to a phytosanitary certificate.

The import of pot plants, plants for aquariums, and nursery plants without a phytosanitary certificate is prohibited. The import of potato, host plants of fire blight, soil, compost and manure, among others, is prohibited.

Other import of plants, parts of plants and plant products from outside the EU and Europe requires a phytosanitary certificate issued by the plant protection authority of the country in question and a plant inspection carried out by Finnish Customs.

**The EU Member States** are Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Cyprus, 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** are the EU Member States and Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein.

**The Schengen countries** are Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.

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## Dogs, cats and ferrets

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

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 official for inspection. Quantitative restrictions and requirements do not concern import from Andorra, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Norway, San Marino, Switzerland, and the Vatican.

### Identification

The animal must be marked for identification with a microchip or a clearly readable tattoo. The animal must be provided with an identification mark before being vaccinated against rabies.

### Pet passport

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 and echinococcus treatment. The pet passport is used in the EU Member States.

### Veterinary certificate

At import from other countries than the EU Member States, the animal must be accompanied by an official certificate issued by a veterinarian in the country of origin indicating the data on the identification, rabies vaccination and echinococcus treatment of the animal. The original certificates 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.

### Rabies vaccination

The animal must be vaccinated against rabies with an inactivated vaccine complying with the international WHO standard at least 21 days before import. In the case of revaccination, the precautionary period of 21 days is not required if the revaccination takes place before the expiry of the previous vaccination.

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

The import into Finland of unvaccinated ferrets under the age of three months is prohibited.

### Determination of rabies antibodies

When the animal is imported from another EU Member State or from a country outside the EU where the risk of infection is low, no determination of rabies antibodies is 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, e.g. from Brazil, India, Turkey or Thailand, the animal must be examined for rabies antibodies before import. An authorised veterinarian must make the blood test for the examination 30 days



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after the rabies vaccination, at the earliest, and three months before the import at the latest. The antibodies must be determined in a laboratory approved by the Finnish Food Safety Authority.

If the animal comes from the EU territory and the determination of rabies antibodies has been made before the export of the animal to a country outside the EU, it is not necessary to wait for three months after the blood test before re-importing the animal into the EU territory. However, the period between the vaccination and the blood test must be at least 30 days. The animal must have a so-called pet passport with an entry by a veterinarian on the examination of antibodies.

## Requirements relating to echinococcus treatment

A cat or a dog must be accompanied by 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, containing praziquantel or epsiprantele against the tapeworm which causes echinococcosis.

Medication against echinococcosis is not required of cats and dogs which are imported directly from Sweden, Norway excluding Svalbard, the United Kingdom, or Ireland, and not of young animals under 12 weeks of age being imported from the United States, Canada, or Switzerland.

No medication against echinococcosis is required of animals which are less than three months old and which are imported from other EU Member States. Medication against echinococcosis is not required for trips abroad which last less than 24 hours.

## Rabbits and other rodents

A passenger is allowed to import rabbits and other rodents such as guinea-pigs, hamsters, rats, mice, etc. without a permit issued by the Finnish Food Safety Authority and without other veterinary certificates, from the EU territory and from the following countries: Australia, Greenland, Iceland, Canada, Croatia, Norway, Switzerland, New Zealand, and the United States.

Import from other countries is allowed only under an import licence issued by the Finnish Food Safety Authority and in compliance with the licence conditions.

## 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 the illicit trade of the species.

A licence is required for the import and export of endangered species of animals and derivative products. A CITES import licence is required for e.g. the furs of wild felines, wolves and bears, ivory, birds of prey, parrots, corals, many species of reptiles, and their derivatives.

Also the import and export of endangered plant species and their derivatives require a licence. A CITES import licence is required e.g. for importing hardwood timber products, cacti and many kinds of orchids.

For importing endangered animals and plants and derivative products from the EU territory, a copy of the import licence or re-export certificate, or a separate CITES certificate of the EU is sufficient.

The licences must be acquired well in advance because they cannot be retrieved afterwards.

## Firearms

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. These restrictions are also applicable to gas sprays.

# Import Restrictions for Passengers

## Copyright infringing recordings

The import of copyright infringing recordings such as counterfeit computer games, software, CDs and DVDs also for personal use is prohibited.

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

## Medicines



A passenger is allowed to import medicinal products and products intended for self-treatment in a quantity which corresponds to a maximum of one year's use from the EEA countries. From non-EEA countries, a passenger is allowed to import a quantity which corresponds to a maximum of three months' self-treatment.

In the Schengen area, a passenger is allowed to carry the medicines needed during the journey, as long as he/she has the prescription and the transport certificate, i.e. Schengen certificate, which has been acquired in the passenger's home country upon purchasing the prescription medicines. This means that a person living in Finland is not allowed to import narcotic medicines acquired from other Schengen countries to Finland.

From non-Schengen countries, a passenger is allowed for personal use to import a medicinal product categorised as a narcotic substance for a maximum of 14 days' treatment. There are also stricter limitations for the import of medicinal products which contain buprenorphine and methadone.

When necessary, the passenger must 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 use of one month. 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 as the animal to be treated.

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

**Check the import restrictions before your departure.  
Further information can be obtained from the authorities listed  
at the end of this brochure.**

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## Further information

**Finnish Food Safety Authority**, [www.evira.fi](http://www.evira.fi),  
tel. +358 20 772 003

- plants, parts of plants and plant products
- dogs, cats and ferrets
- rabbits, rodents
- veterinary conditions on the import of other animals

**National Agency for Medicines**, [www.laakelaitos.fi](http://www.laakelaitos.fi), tel. +358 9 473 341

**Ministry of the Environment**, [www.ymparisto.fi](http://www.ymparisto.fi),  
tel. +358 9 16 007 and **Finland's Environmental Administration**, tel. +358 20 490 123

- CITES import licences
- re-export certificates

**Ministry of the Interior, Police Department**,  
tel. +358 9 16 001

- firearms and related supplies
- gas sprays

**Copyright Information and Anti-Piracy Centre**  
tel. +358 9 6803 4049, +358 9 6803 4059  
[www.antipiracy.fi](http://www.antipiracy.fi), e-mail: [info@antipiracy.fi](mailto:info@antipiracy.fi)

**Customs Information**, tel. +358 20 690 600

Further information is also available in the brochure  
"Customs Information for Passengers".

**Please do not hesitate to contact us.  
We will be happy to give you further information.**



Help us to uncover a customs offence by calling the  
Finnish Customs' tip-off phone,  
**+358 800 1 4600**

or by giving an anonymous tip,  
free of charge by web form at

[www.tulli.fi](http://www.tulli.fi)