Safe entry of seasonal primary production workers to Finland – instructions for employers

The Finnish Government has permitted the entry of seasonal primary production workers into the country, subject to health security requirements. No quotas on the country of origin or employer have been imposed for seasonal workers in 2021.

These instructions apply only to temporary seasonal workers. Persons entering Finland with a residence permit are subject to general entry requirements.

1. The guidelines by the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare on the safe entry of seasonal workers must be followed

The Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare has issued health security guidelines on entry into Finland, quarantine and health security plan. The guidelines describe how COVID-19 testing and quarantine must be organised and what issues must be addressed in the employer’s health security plan. All employers must follow the guidelines to ensure the safe entry of seasonal workers.

The employer is responsible for organising and enforcing the quarantine and for drawing up a health security plan.

The employer must ensure that seasonal workers entering Finland transfer directly and safely to quarantine facilities. The employee and employer are responsible for arranging transportation in quarantine-like conditions and for any costs incurred. Public authorities do not organise transportation of workers into or within Finland.

2. Enforcing the quarantine

The employer must ensure that all foreign seasonal primary production workers observe a self-imposed quarantine. The employer must inform all seasonal workers of matters related to the self-imposed quarantine (see instructions).

Producers’ organisations have designed a self-monitoring system for enforcing the quarantine of foreign seasonal workers. The system ensures that the containment of the virus is not endangered.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry strongly recommends that employers make use of the self-monitoring system. Quarantine instructions for seasonal workers can be found in the Töitä Suomesta (Working in Finland) service at www.töitäsuomesta.fi/maahantulo > Ilmoitus karanteenin
3. **Documents and forms required for entry into the country**

Upon arriving in Finland, seasonal workers must present the following:

- **Employer’s or client’s justification for the necessity of an employee entering the country**, filled in by the employer (www.tem.fi) (appendix 3)

- The employer’s form refers to the list made based on the authorities’ assessment on tasks that are essential for the security of supply or critical for a specific sector (www.tem.fi). The list includes certain agricultural, horticultural, forestry and fishery work. The employer must check that the worker’s task is included on the list.

- necessary travel document (typically a passport) and

- for third-country citizens, a seasonal work certificate (visa not required), seasonal work visa (visa required) or seasonal work residence permit if the work season is longer than 90 days.

**The seasonal work permit must be issued before entering the country.**

Final permission for a foreign seasonal worker’s departure for Finland is always given by the country of origin. The final decision on entry into Finland is the border authority. The Finnish Border Guard does not issue advance rulings on entry into the country.

The Finnish Border Guard website (raja.fi) lists instructions on entering the country during the pandemic.

Seasonal work permits are issued by the Finnish Immigration Service (Migri) and seasonal work visas by the Foreign Service (Finnish diplomatic missions in the countries of origin).

For more information on how to apply for a seasonal work permit, visit the Migri webpage on seasonal work (migri.fi) and the FAQ page (migri.fi).

In addition, Migri’s Videos page has an online seminar on seasonal work that goes over the following:

- different types of seasonal work permits

- information needed when applying for a permit, and

- how to apply for a seasonal work permit in the Enter Finland service.

For more information on how to apply for a seasonal work visa, visit the Ministry of Foreign Affairs webpages Visa to visit Finland (um.fi).

**The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has no jurisdiction in matters related to work permits or border entry.**

4. **Transportation into Finland**

Public authorities do not organise transportation of workers into or within Finland.
The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry recommends the use of flight pooling using charter flights, particularly in the case of seasonal workers from Ukraine. Flights can be booked through the Töitä Suomesta service (www.töitäsuomesta.fi/maahantulo).

To ensure safe entry into the country during COVID-19, avoid situations where seasonal workers travel on their own through several different countries. To minimise the risks related to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is recommended that employers plan a safe travel route for workers from the country of origin to the workplace in advance.

5. Taking care of employees – communication between the employee and seasonal worker

To minimise the risks of COVID-19, it is strongly advised that employees stay in direct contact with seasonal workers arriving in Finland. This helps limit and minimise unethical exploitation by intermediaries. For this reason, employees are recommended to use means such as direct charter flights.

6. Availability of Finnish seasonal workers

Services on the availability of Finnish seasonal workers are provided by the Töitä Suomesta service and TE employment services.

7. Food imports

Imports of all meat and meat products and milk and dairy products into the EU are banned in order to prevent the spread of animal diseases. Seasonal workers arriving from abroad should be reminded of the ban.

Imports from other EU member states are also restricted. This issue is particularly topical as the African swine fever (ASF) is spreading worldwide.

For more on the topic, visit the Finnish Food Authority website:

- When entering Finland from outside the EU
- Importing food as souvenirs
- Precautions against animal diseases
- Disease protection for pig farms (EN/RU)

8. Further information and advice

Frequently asked questions (www.mmm.fi)
Töitä Suomesta service under Contact us.
Appendices:

Appendix 1  Instructions for employers on the safe entry into Finland, quarantine and health security plan for seasonal primary production workers

Appendix 2  Health security instructions for seasonal primary production workers

Appendix 3  Form to be filled in by the employer: Employer’s or client’s justification for the necessity of an employee entering the country