



Instructions

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

The Finnish Government allows the entry of seasonal primary production workers into the country for the 2021 growing season, taking into account health security procedures. No country-specific or employer-specific quotas have been set for seasonal workers in 2021.

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

1. Health-secure entry of seasonal workers

The Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare has issued **health security guidelines on entry into Finland and on drawing up health security plans** ([Annex 1](#)). The guidelines describe how to arrange COVID-19 testing and ensure that workers can avoid close contact with others, 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.

Employers are responsible for drawing up a health security plan

The employer must ensure that seasonal workers entering Finland can move safely to their accommodation/workplace and avoid close contacts while doing so. The worker and the employer are responsible for arranging safe transport and for the costs incurred. Public authorities do not organise workers' transport to Finland or within the country.

2. Avoiding social contacts

It is important for employers to ensure that all foreign workers in primary production on farms comply with the recommendation to avoid close contacts before receiving their COVID-19 test results. Employers must inform all seasonal workers of what this means in practice (see instructions in [Appendix 1](#)) and provide instructions to all seasonal workers in primary production on how to ensure health security ([Appendix 2](#)).

Producers' organisations have designed a self-monitoring system for enforcing the health security 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 available in the [Töitä Suomesta \(Working in Finland\) service](https://www.toitasuomesta.fi/maahantulo) (www.toitasuomesta.fi/maahantulo > Ilmoitus karanteenin omavalvonnasta).

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 of 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 made by the border authority. The Finnish Border Guard does not issue advance rulings on entry into the country.

[The Finnish Border Guard website \(raja.fi\)](https://raja.fi) provides 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 addresses 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, go to the [Visa to visit Finland page on the Ministry for Foreign Affairs website \(um.fi\)](#).

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

4. Transport to Finland

Public authorities do not organise workers' transport to Finland or within the country. At the end of the season, Töitä Suomesta Oy will no longer provide charter flights either (based on the information currently available). To minimise the risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, it is recommended that employers plan a safe travel route together with workers from the country of origin to the workplace in advance.

5. Taking care of workers – communication between the employer and seasonal workers

To minimise the risks of COVID-19, it is strongly advised that employers stay in direct contact with seasonal workers arriving in Finland. This helps limit and minimise unethical exploitation by intermediaries.

6. Availability of Finnish seasonal workers

Services for finding Finnish seasonal workers are provided by the [Töitä Suomesta service](#) and [TE employment services](#).

7. Food imports

It is strictly prohibited to bring any meat and meat products as well as milk and dairy products into the EU, in order to prevent the spread of animal diseases. A number of easily transmissible dangerous animal diseases can also spread along with meat and milk products. Seasonal workers arriving from abroad should be reminded of the ban on bringing these products into the EU. This is a highly topical issue because African swine fever (ASF) is spreading throughout the world.

Imports from other EU Member States are also restricted.

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

- [Instructions for travellers: Travelling from outside the EU to Finland](#)
- [Restrictions and instructions on bringing in food for private use](#)
- [Protection against animal diseases in animal husbandry facilities \(available in Finnish and Swedish\)](#)
- [Disease protection on pig farms – guidelines for pig farm workers \(in English and Russian\)](#)
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8. More information and advice

[Frequently asked questions](http://www.mmm.fi) (www.mmm.fi)

[Töitä Suomesta service > Contact information \(in Finnish\)](#)

Appendices

- 1) [Instructions for employers on seasonal primary production workers' safe entry into Finland, ways to avoid close contacts and drawing up a health security plan](#)
- 2) [Health security instructions for seasonal primary production workers](#)
- 3) [Form: Employer's or client's justification for the necessity of an employee entering the country](#)