

**Instructions**

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

These instructions apply to temporary seasonal workers. Persons entering Finland with a residence permit are subject to general requirements regarding entry to the country and health security.

1. Safe entry of seasonal workers

It is the employer's duty to ensure that seasonal workers entering Finland transfer safely to their place of accommodation/workplace. 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.

Seasonal workers from third countries are allowed to enter Finland if they have a certificate of a complete and valid vaccination series or a certificate that proves they have recovered from COVID-19 ([see also section 3. Entry into Finland from other countries on the Finnish Border Guard's website](#)) or if the employee's place of work is included in [a list based on the authorities' assessment of tasks that are essential for the security of supply or critical for a specific sector \(in Finnish\)](#). (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. [A list of vaccine series accepted in Finland is available on the website of the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare](#).

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry recommends that all seasonal workers get vaccinated before coming to Finland. The Ministry strongly recommends that unvaccinated persons entering Finland carry a certificate of a negative COVID-19 test taken no more than 72 hours prior to entry.

The employer has a duty to oversee workers' compliance with health security instructions, such as testing, avoiding close contact and taking protective measures against coronavirus.

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2. Documents and forms required for entry into the country

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

- If the employee does not have a certificate of a vaccination series or recovery from COVID-19, ([see also section 3.Entry into Finland from other countries on the Finnish Border Guard’s website](#)), [the employer’s or client’s justification for the necessity of an employee entering the country -form](#) (www.tem.fi) (appendix), should be filled in by the employer. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry recommends that employers fill in this form for all seasonal workers arriving in Finland for seasonal work in order to avoid any problems upon entry.
- 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 make preliminary decisions regarding entry into the country.

The Finnish Border Guard website (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.

More information on how to apply for a seasonal work visa is available on the website of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs [Visa to visit Finland \(um.fi\)](#).

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

3. Transport to Finland

Public authorities do not organise workers’ transport to Finland or within the country. To minimise the risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, it is recommended that employers and workers together pre-plan a safe travel route from the country of origin to the workplace.

4. 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.

5. Food imports

Employers are advised to inform workers arriving in Finland in advance about the restrictions on food imports and about foods that may be brought into the country.

All passengers arriving in Finland must go through customs with their luggage. Any prohibited food items must be handed over to the customs officials upon entry. Violation of these regulations may result in a penalty payment.

Prohibited foods:

Passengers are not allowed to bring into the EU any meat or meat products (e.g. raw meat, cooked meat products, sausages, animal fat, canned meat products) or milk or dairy products (e.g. cheese, yoghurt, smetana, milk and milk-based drinks) in order to prevent the spread of animal diseases. A number of easily transmissible dangerous animal diseases can spread with meat and milk products. Seasonal workers arriving from abroad should be reminded of these restrictions. This is a highly topical issue because African swine fever (ASF) is spreading throughout the world.

There are also restrictions on meat and meat products that passengers from other EU Member States are allowed to bring into Finland.

Passengers are not allowed to bring into the EU any fresh fruit (except those listed below under “permitted foods”), berries, vegetables, root vegetables or herbs without a phytosanitary certificate.

Permitted foods:

Passengers are allowed to bring into the EU fishery products (e.g. fresh gutted fish, salted, dried or smoked fish). The maximum amount per person is 20 kg or the weight of one fish, whichever is higher.

The maximum amount of honey and live oysters, clams and snails is 2 kg per person.

Mixed products that can be stored in room temperature (products containing both plant-based food and processed food of animal origin) are allowed as long as these products do not contain any meat products, they carry labels indicating they are intended for human consumption, they are packaged or sealed safely, and they are included in the following products:

- bakery and confectionery products (including sweets), chocolate and other foods containing cocoa;
- pasta, noodles and couscous;
- bread, cakes, biscuits and shortbreads, waffles, rusk, toast and other similar toasted products;

- olives stuffed with fish;
- coffee, tea and mate extracts, essences and concentrates and any products made with them or with coffee, tea or mate;
- roasted root chicory and other roasted coffee substitutes and extracts, essences and concentrates made from these;
- consumer packaged consommés and food flavourings;
- consumer packaged food supplements containing processed products of animal origin (including glucosamine, chondroitin or chitosan);

The only fresh fruit passengers are allowed to bring into the EU without a phytosanitary certificate are pineapples, bananas, durians, coconuts and dates.

Other allowed foods include dried, frozen, preserved or otherwise processed plant-based products (e.g. tea, coffee, dried or roasted nuts and seeds, spices, dried herbs, canned foods, rice, flour and flakes).

More information on the website of the Finnish Food Authority:

- [Instructions for travellers: Travelling from outside the EU to Finland](#)
- [Restrictions on imports of food of animal origin by private persons \(to order free brochures in the languages shown on the website please contact: \[tilaukset@ruokavirasto.fi\]\(mailto:tilaukset@ruokavirasto.fi\)\)](#)
- [Protection against animal diseases in animal husbandry facilities \(available in Finnish and Swedish\)](#)
- [Disease protection on pig farms – guidelines for pig farm workers \(in English and Russian\), \(Finnish/Swedish\)](#)
- [Instructions for the import of plant-based products by private persons](#)

6. More information and advice

[THL: Travelling to Finland](#)

[THL: Approved vaccine courses](#)

[THL: A COVID certificate \(vaccinations, recovery from COVID-19, test result\) - what information is required](#)

[THL: Transmission and protection](#)

[THL: Quarantine and isolation](#)

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

Attachment [Form: Employer's or client's justification for the necessity of an employee entering the country](#)

