



## *Importing Personal Property Into Finland*

### **HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS**

#### **CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

##### **Customs Regulations:**

Client must be in Finland and have a primary residence there at the time of the customs clearance process. Used household goods and personal effects are duty free provided goods have been owned and used by the client for a minimum of six months and customer has lived abroad for at least one year. Personal effects can be imported within 12 months of arrival into Finland. The goods cannot be sold, lent or otherwise disposed of for at least 2 years.

**Note:** An EORI (Economic Operators Registration and Identification) number is required for all imports and exports to clear Customs in the European Union. The EORI number must be used in all electronic communications with Customs Offices and other government agencies and departments. This number is valid in all EU member states and replaces ALL Customs identification numbers including the TIN (Traders Identification Number. Consult with your Destination Agent for further details and assistance.

**Note:** Documents and Customs regulations vary according to nationality of the client. Finnish Customs has an English version in the Acknowledgments section below with all necessary forms, requirements and procedures.

##### **Required Documents:**

- ✓ Passport - copy of biographical page
- ✓ Residence Visa
- ✓ Lease/rental contract – proof of residency must be established prior to final Customs clearance
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill – original
- ✓ Comprehensive Valued Inventory – in Finnish, Swedish or English, must state exact number of boxes and detailed contents of each box
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance
- ✓ Letter from Employer – on company letterhead; attesting to customer's length of stay, position in the company
- ✓ Import Declaration – Customs Form 45; stating goods are his/her property, have been used abroad and are for continued use in Finland
- ✓ Declaration for Exemption of Duties & Taxes - Customs Form 45e

##### **Diplomat Status:**

Foreign diplomats, members of government or international organizations are granted tax and duty free entry of their personal effects and household items either new or used.

##### **Required Documents:**

- ✓ Diplomatic Franchise
- ✓ Passport copy
- ✓ Comprehensive inventory – all high-tech equipment, computers, electronics, stereos etc must state make model & serial number
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance

## RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS

- ✓ Works of Art, Precious Metals & Antiques – requires a detailed inventory, duty free if shipped with HHG; incur VAT
- ✓ Firearms - requires a certificate from the local police authority; may need to be shipped separately; all firearms will be held at Customs until the Firearm Certificate is obtained
- ✓ Plants – Phytosanitary Certificate required
- ✓ New items - (less than 6 months) subject to VAT and duty, require receipts and Commercial Invoice; must be listed separately on Customs Form 45
- ✓ Food – only dry food goods allowed; subject to VAT of 14%
- ✓ Alcohol - subject to VAT & duty; must state cost, type, volume, % of alcohol on pack list
- ✓ Tobacco – subject to VAT & duty
- ✓ Medication - requires prescriptions to be presented to Customs Authority
- ✓ Books – subject to VAT of 10%
- ✓ Walkie-talkies, radios, GPS devices and other telecommunication equipment

## PROHIBITED ITEMS

- ✓ Narcotics/illegal drugs of any kind
- ✓ Pornography and subversive material
- ✓ Explosives, ammunitions and weapons including knives, swords and fireworks
- ✓ Feathers, furs, tusks, skins etc of animals included on the Endangered Species List and those protected under the CITES Convention

## IMPORTATION OF PETS

Quarantine is required for a period of three (3) months and veterinary examination upon arrival to Finland. Pets without a rabies certificate will be returned to port of origin. Pets are duty-free upon proof of ownership.

### Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination – including rabies, dated 30 days to 11 months prior to arrival
- ✓ Health Certificate - dated no more than 10 days prior to arrival, by a Veterinarian
- ✓ Import Permit – obtained from Ministry of Agriculture, Finland

## IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

All vehicles are subject to a car tax. Reduction of the tax (up to 13,450EUR max) may apply if these conditions are met: 1) Vehicle is owned and use abroad for at least 6 months. 2) The client qualifies for duty-free import of household goods and has lived outside of Finland for 1 year. 3) If the client had previously brought in a vehicle tax free, it's required that the time limit within which that vehicle may not be transferred without payment of has expired before bringing in the current vehicle. Vehicle can not be sold, lent or otherwise disposed of for a period of 2 years without full payment of all taxes and duties. Vehicle must comply with European exhaust regulations.

### Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Title and Registration - must be original
- ✓ Commercial/Purchase Invoice & receipts of payment – must be original
- ✓ Origin Insurance Policy & Finnish Insurance Policy – must be original
- ✓ Proof of Employment at origin, proving auto was purchased with earnings from abroad
- ✓ Driver's license & Passport (must show date of arrival stamp into Finland)

- ✓ Customs forms – nr. 53s-03, nr. 72s-08 and one of the below depending on vehicle type nr. 27As for a car / nr. 27Bs for motorcycle / nr. 27Cs -07 for a van

**Boats:** Must meet EU standards; Consult your Destination Agent regarding laws for importation

**Snowmobiles /ATV's:** Duty free, must be listed on the Inventory & Vehicle Import Declaration

**Kayaks/canoes:** Duty free, must be listed on the Inventory.

\*Any and all of these vehicles must be loaded near the container doors for easy access.

#### **NOTES:**

**Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials:** Finland as part of the European community enforces regulations and requirements regarding ISPM15 for wood packaging material (WPM).

**Health:** Stringent Finnish customs regulations prohibit residents from receiving drugs from abroad after having arrived in the country. Foreign residents may also find local physicians reluctant to prescribe equivalent quantities of dosages. Foreign residents with special medical needs should consult their physicians and take appropriate precautions, including bringing adequate supplies of necessary medication. Medicines may be brought into the country for personal use, however, there are requirements on the quantity imported. Typically medications categorized as narcotics may only be brought into the country to cover personal use for a maximum of 14 days and must be accompanied by a medical certificate stating why the traveler needs them.

For more detailed information on medicines and medical issues, visit the website of the [Finnish Embassy in Washington, DC](#).

**Transportation & Driving:** Driving in Finland is on the right. Traffic approaching from the right has priority, even if entering a primary roadway from a secondary one; as such, stop signs are rarely used in Finland. Public transport in Finland is of good quality, relatively safe and is the recommended method of travel. Taxis are more expensive than in major U.S. cities.

Drunk-driving laws are strict and acceptable blood alcohol levels are much lower in Finland than in the U.S. Police strictly enforce all traffic laws and institute random roadside breath analyzer tests. Drivers who register 0.05 or above on a breathalyzer are subject to immediate arrest.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:**

FIDI Global Alliance

Department of State: [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_1115.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1115.html)

Finnish Customs: <http://www.tulli.fi/en/index.jsp>

Embassy of Finland: <http://www.finland.org/Public/Default.aspx>

USDA: [www.aphis.usda.gov](http://www.aphis.usda.gov)

IATA Travel Centre

The information presented herein is based on customs data available at the time of printing and is frequently subject to change without notice. It is the responsibility of the owner or importer of the household goods to comply with the current customs restrictions, regulations, and duties of the country to which the goods are imported. We strongly advise customers to contact the consulate or embassy of the destination country for the most current information on customs regulations, restrictions and duties for importing household goods, personal effects and vehicles.