

Moving to Finland: Your Relocation Guide



By Appointment To
Her Majesty The Queen
Removals and Storage Contractor Abels

ABELS™

THE ART OF MOVING

Freephone: 0800 626769 E-Mail: export@abels.co.uk

www.abels.co.uk



INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE



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INTERNATIONAL
MOVER



Memb No: A001



FS 23942



198656



TELEPHONE:	Country code (258) + area code
STANDARD TIME:	GMT +2 hours
WEIGHTS & MEASURES:	Metric
ELECTRICITY:	380/220v 50Hz, 3 phase
INOCULATIONS / VACCINATIONS:	No special requirements
PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:	Jan 1, 6, Good Friday, Easter Monday, May 1, Ascension Day, Whitsun, Midsummer Day (2 days), All Saints Day, Dec 6, 25, 26
OFFICE HOURS:	0900-1600 Monday – Friday
BANK HOURS:	0900-1630 Monday – Friday
EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS:	Police: 10022 Ambulance: 10023 General Emergency Number: 112
BRITISH EMBASSY:	Itainen Puistotie 17 00140 Helsinki Tel: (0) 9 2286 5100 Fax: (0) 9 2286 5262 http://ukinfinland.fco.gov.uk
TOURIST & TRAVEL INFORMATION:	www.visitfinland.com
FINLAND EMBASSY IN LONDON:	38 Chesham Place London SW1X 8HW Tel: 0207 8386 200 Fax: 0207 2353 680 Email: sanomat.lon@formin.fi www.finemb.org.uk



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Moving to Finland from the UK – Information and Advice: Abels Relocation Guide

Customs

Finland is part of the EU and as such, no official documents are required for personal effects and household goods if originating from another EC country. However, should you be from outside the EU the following applies:

Household Goods Imported from EU

Documents required:

- Inventory of goods

Admitted free of customs duty, tax and other restrictions except prohibitions referred to in Article 36 of the Treaty of Rome.

Personal Property from Outside EU

Documents required:

SEA

- Inventory with exact number of packages
- Copy of passport (page with picture)
- Import declaration form (Customs Form 45s-00 for Finnish citizens / Customs form 45e-94 for foreigners)

AIR

- Inventory with exact number of packages
- Copy of passport (page with picture)
- Import declaration form (Customs Form 45s-00 for Finnish citizens / Customs form 45e-94 for foreigners)

Duty free entry if:

- The goods have been under the ownership of the immigrant outside the EU for six months
- Immigrant's permanent place of residence has been outside the EU at least twelve months. Employer's certificate might be requested to prove the residency abroad
- Imported as personal property in connection with removal and importation in twelve months after the immigrant's arrival in Finland

Inventories accepted in Finnish, Swedish or English.

Immigrant must have arrived in Finland before the final customs clearance can take place.

In justified cases, if applied for in advance, the National Board of Customs may grant an exception to this rule.

Diplomatic Goods

Documents required:

- Inventory with exact number of packages
- Copy of passport (page with picture)
- Obligation for privilege to be lodged by the Foreign Ministry (French Paper)

Duty free entry.

Importation of alcohol by diplomats:

- Diplomats arriving from outside EU need to present the "french paper" issued by the Foreign Ministry or valid taxform 1330 confirmed and signed by the relevant EU-office

Wedding Trousseaux

Duty free entry if imported as personal property in connection with removal.

See website

http://tulli.fi/en/artikkeli/-/asset_publisher/

Customs and tax treatment of gifts received from outside Finland.

Inheritances

Documents required:

- Inventory of goods
- Copy of passport (page with picture)
- Copy of Will or certified copy thereof
- Estate inventory

Duty free entry if legatee has their normal place of residence in Finland.

New Items

Document required:

- Sales Invoice with prices, dates and place of purchase

Subject to VAT and customs duty if they have not been in the owners previous use prior to your arrival to Finland.

Must be separately indicated on the import declaration form.

Works of Art / Antiques

Document required:

- Inventory of goods

Duty free entry if imported as personal property in connection with removal and not intended for the sale, otherwise subject to VAT and customs duty.

Precious Metal Objects

Document required:

- Inventory of goods

Duty free entry if imported as personal property in connection with removal and not intended for the sale, otherwise subject to VAT and customs duty.

Motorcars and Motorcycles

For the import clearance and duty / tax free application

- Employment certificate (or other document concerning the stay in Finland)
- Passport
- Driving License



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- Date of arrival in Finland (e.g. travel ticket or stamp in passport)
- Commercial invoice
- Receipt of the payment
- Registration certificate (for six months instantly before moving to Finland)
- Traffic insurance documents (for six months instantly before moving to Finland)
- Document showing the CO2 emissions (certificate of conformity or other similar document)
- Shipping documents
- Customs declaration

The car tax rule has been amended, and the amendments entered into force on 1 January 2015. The tax reduction for removal vehicles imported by immigrants has been eliminated.

A person immigrating to Finland before 31 December 2017 or a person immigrating gradually whose stay in Finland has started not later than 31 December 2017, may be granted a tax reduction for the removal vehicle even after the law has entered into force, provided that the vehicle is registered as a vehicle used by the immigrant or they have signed a binding purchase agreement for it prior to the law taking effect, i.e. not later than 31 December 2014.

To vehicles imported as removal goods that have been granted a tax reduction shall apply restrictions on transfer which restrict the selling or transfer of the vehicle without paying the tax.

Duty free entry if:

- The immigrant has stayed abroad for at least one year immediately before moving
- The vehicle has been in the ownership and use of the immigrant or their spouse abroad for at least six months immediately before moving to Finland
- The duty free could be applied only for one vehicle per importer

A vehicle imported with exemption from, or reduction of tax may not be sold or transferred before the vehicle has been in the ownership and in the use of the immigrant for in all three years, of which time, however, for at least one year in Finland.

Customs is not handling anymore car taxation. This has been moved to the Local Tax Office (Verohallinto)

Car tax (calls from Finland) 029 497 150

Car tax (calls from outside Finland) +358 29 497 152

www.vero.fi

www.trafi.fi

You can make the Car Tax Handling from this link

[https://www.vero.fi/fi-FI/Asioi_verkossa/Autoverotuksen_sahkoiset_palvelu_t\(41831\)](https://www.vero.fi/fi-FI/Asioi_verkossa/Autoverotuksen_sahkoiset_palvelu_t(41831))

Visiting address is: Rajatorpantie 8 A, 01600 Vantaa

Open: Mondays and Thursdays 9-15

Caravans, Trailers, Kayaks, Canoes, Mopeds, Snow-Mobiles, ATVs (3-4 wheelers) Aeroplanes

Document required:

- Invoice
- Specified in the import declaration form (except kayaks / canoes)

Duty free entry if:

- The vehicle has been in use by the immigrant or his family abroad for at least six months
- ATVs and snowmobiles: need no specific declaration if they are not intended to use on the road. Otherwise, import declaration as vehicles. Duties /taxes may apply.

The vehicle with an engine less than 50 cc, need no specific declaration.

Recreational crafts / boats and their parts such as outboard engines.

The craft / engine must meet the EU directives (2003/44/EY)

Restrictions apply.

http://veps.fma.fi/portal/page/portal/veneily/rakenne_varusteet/ this website is in Finnish only.

Contact Abels to check the details of the craft / engine before shipping. Also needs to be loaded near the doors of the container.

Please be aware of the laws governing the importation of the recreational crafts to avoid delays and difficulties.

To be loaded to allow easy access for customs inspection.

Please check with your local FIDI-agent before shipping craft/boats/engines.

Food

Description in the packing list. Dry food only.

Duty free entry if imported reasonable quantity for the household's own use only.

Importation of meat, meat products (dry meat, canned meat etc), milk products or dairy products from non-EU countries is prohibited.

Weapons

Document required:

- Valid certificate issued by local Police authority

Do not ship weapons, check with the Finnish authorities first.

To be loaded to allow easy access for customs inspection.

Duty free entry if imported as personal property in connection with removal, otherwise subject to VAT and customs duty.



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Alcoholic Products, Narcotics and Tobacco

Documents required:

- A detailed inventory for each bottle, type its volume and the %s. Also mention the approximate cost of purchase

All alcohol and tobacco products are subject to customs duty and VAT.

Importation of alcohol by diplomats:

- Diplomats arriving from outside EU need to present the "French paper" issued by the Foreign Ministry or valid tax form 1330 confirmed and signed by the relevant EU-office
- Finnish returning diplomats are not exempt from taxes on alcohol and need to declare them in the usual manner

Narcotics, drugs and incitements require special permits.

Pirate Goods

Subject to confiscation and fines.

Prohibited.

Plants and Vegetable products

Document required:

- Phytosanitary Certificate for non-EU products

Medical products

If the medical product is such that requires doctor's prescription in Finland, the prescription must be available for the Customs.

Pets

Document required:

- Veterinary certificate

Animals from rabies free countries may be imported. Importation from other areas requires a veterinary certificate of rabies vaccination. If no certificate is available, the animal must be returned to the country of export or killed under supervision of border veterinarian. Please check with your local FIDI agent before shipping any animals.

Products of Animals Coming Under the Protected Species Regulations

Under special regulations.

Items subject to irrevocable confiscation.

Wood Regulations

Important regulations on Wood valid for all EU countries.

EU applies the ISPM 15 standard related to the treatment of solid wood packaging and dunnage (wood used to wedge or support non-wood cargo). All arriving solid wood packaging must carry the ISPM15 mark indicating that all the timber has received appropriate treatment. The approved measures are heat treatment and fumigation.

Failure to include the ISPM15 mark will result in either the timber being ordered for examination or mandatory treatment.

Excepted from ISPM15 mark: raw wood of 6mm thickness or less, processed wood producer by glue, heat and pressurer.

General Information on the Republic of Finland

Background

Finland was a province and then a grand duchy under Sweden from the 12th to the 19th centuries, and an autonomous grand duchy of Russia after 1809. It won its complete independence in 1917. During World War II, it was able to successfully defend its freedom and resist invasions by the Soviet Union – albeit with some loss of territory. In the subsequent half century, the Finns made a remarkable transformation from a farm/forest economy to a diversified modern industrial economy; per capita income is now among the highest in Western Europe. A member of the European Union since 1995, Finland was the only Nordic state to join the euro system at its initiation in January 1999. In the 21st century, the key features of Finland's modern welfare state are a high standard of education, equality promotion, and national social security system – currently challenged by an aging population and the fluctuations of an export-driven economy.

Geography

Finland is the northernmost country on the European continent. Although other countries have points extending farther north, virtually all of Finland is north of 60 degrees north latitude. Nearly a quarter of the land area and fully one-third of the latitudinal extent of the country lies north of the Arctic Circle.

In area, Finland has 304,623 square kilometres of land and 33,522 square kilometres of inland water, a total of 338,145 square kilometres. It shares borders on the west with Sweden for 540 kilometres, on the north with Norway for 720 kilometres and on the east with the Soviet Union for 1,268 kilometres. There are approximately 1,107 kilometres of coastline on the Gulf of Finland (south), the Baltic Sea (southwest), and the Gulf of Bothnia (west). The rugged coastline is deeply indented with bays and inlets. The offshore region is studded with islands.

The most predominant influences on Finland's geography were the continental glaciers that scoured and gouged the country's surface. When the glaciers receded about 10,000 years ago, they left behind moraines, drumlins and eskers. Other indications of their presence are the thousands of lakes they helped to form in the southern part of the country. The force of the moving ice sheets gouged the lake beds, and melt waters helped to fill them. The recession of the glaciers is so recent (in geologic terms) that modern-day drainage patterns are immature and poorly established. The direction of glacial advance and recession set the alignment of the lakes and streams in a general northeast to southwest lineation. The two Salpausselka Ridges, which run parallel to each other about 25 kilometres apart, are the terminal moraines. At their greatest height they reach an elevation of about 200 metres, the highest point in southern Finland.



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There are international disputes as various groups in Finland advocate restoration of Karelia and other areas ceded to the Soviet Union, but the Finnish Government asserts no territorial demand.

Climate

Although the Finnish winter is long, it is normally only very severe between mid December and the end of March, in the south, snow lies for about 100 days with temperatures falling to -18°C . In central Finland there is snow for 150 days and in Lapland there is snow for more than 200 days.

Spring and autumn are colder than average for north-west Europe and in Rovaniemi there is continuous sun between 6 June and 7 July.

Population

Finland's population is estimated at 5,238,460, it is a sparsely populated country with only 17 people per km^2 . Compared with other Western European countries the number of foreign residents has traditionally been very low, but is now growing, currently there are 99,000, the majority of these are Russian, about 20% of the total, followed by persons with Estonian, Swedish or Somali citizenship. The most densely populated areas are in the south and south-west of the country whereas Lapland is the least dense.

Environmental Issues

There is air pollution from manufacturing and power plants contributing to acid rain. Water pollution from industrial wastes, agricultural chemicals and habitat loss threatens wildlife populations.

Currency

The currency is the Euro:

- Notes: 500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 & 5 Euros
- Coins: 2, 1 Euro then 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 & 1 cents

Most major credit cards are widely accepted and the Finnish banking system is well developed, with many foreign banks represented. All foreign exchange restrictions have been abolished.

Language

There are two official languages in Finland, Finnish is spoken by 93% of the population and Swedish is spoken by 6% of the population. The majority of Finns speak English.

Economy

Finland has a highly industrialised, largely free-market economy with per capita GDP almost as high as that of Austria, Belgium, the Netherlands, or Sweden. Trade is important, with exports accounting for over one-third of GDP in recent years.

Finland is historically competitive in manufacturing - principally the wood, metals, engineering, telecommunications, and electronics industries. Finland excels in export of

technology for mobile phones as well as promotion of start ups in the information and communications technology, gaming, cleantech, and biotechnology sectors. Except for timber and several minerals, Finland depends on imports of raw materials, energy, and some components for manufactured goods. Because of the cold climate, agricultural development is limited to maintaining self-sufficiency in basic products. Forestry, an important export industry, provides a secondary occupation for the rural population.

Finland had been one of the best performing economies within the EU before 2009 and its banks and financial markets avoided the worst of global financial crisis. However, the world slowdown hit exports and domestic demand hard in that year, causing Finland's economy to contract from 2012-14. The recession affected general government finances and the debt ratio.

Finland's main challenges will be reducing high labor costs and boosting demand for its exports. In the long term, Finland must address a rapidly aging population and decreasing productivity in traditional industries that threaten competitiveness, fiscal sustainability, and economic growth. The depreciating ruble and Russia's general economic slowdown will dampen exports to Russia.

Education

Education in Finland is compulsory between the ages of 7 and 18 years of age and the Finnish schools are very comprehensive. Schools suitable for English speakers include:

- International School of Helsinki, Tel: (0)9 686 6160
- The English School, Tel: (0) 9 477 1123

Religion

There is complete freedom of religion in Finland although it is dominated by one of its two state churches, the Lutheran Church of Finland with 84.2% of the population members, Greek Orthodox in Finland has 1.1%, other Christian faiths have 1.1%, and other faiths have 0.1%, whilst 13.5% of the population do not follow a religion.

Health

Hepatitis A occurs. Cases of Diphtheria have been reported. Campers and trekkers should take precautions against tick bites and consider immunisation against tick-borne encephalitis.

Prescribed drugs may be obtained from any pharmacy.

Hospital treatment

A doctor will normally refer you to a public hospital where you must present your passport or E111. In an emergency you can seek treatment from the nearest public hospital without consulting a doctor first. For in-patient treatment there is a fixed daily charge, which is not refundable. For out-patient visits to a hospital there is a fixed charge, which again is non-refundable.



Medical Facilities

The medical facilities in Finland are very good, and the costs for expatriates are covered by their Social Security contributions (according to the terms and of your contract).

It is advisable to ascertain the extent of this cover for the rest of your family, and take out necessary insurance cover if there is any doubt.

Electricity

The domestic electricity supply is 380 or 220 volts AC 50 cycles, single phase. Plug fittings are circular, 2-pin and lamp fittings are the screw type. Most houses are fitted with a sauna which is heated with electricity.

Although every care is taken to ensure that all information in the Abels Relocation Guide is accurate and up to date Abels cannot accept liability for any inaccuracy.