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Instructions for border traffic issued by the Border Guard in accordance with the Government decision of 7 May 2020

On 7 May 2020, the Government decided to continue border control at internal borders and restrict cross-border traffic until 14 June 2020. These instructions of the Border Guard provide passengers with information on changes in permitted cross-border traffic as of 14 May.

At internal borders, the following is permitted:

- return traffic to Finland
- return traffic to or through other EU and Schengen States
- travel for work
- other essential traffic

At external borders, the following is permitted:

- return traffic to Finland
- return traffic to or through other EU and Schengen States
- departure from the country of a third-country national
- other essential traffic

Under section 9 of the Constitution of Finland, Finnish citizens shall not be prevented from entering Finland, and everyone has the right to leave the country. Limitations on this right may, however, be laid down by an act, if they are necessary for the purpose of safeguarding legal proceedings, for the enforcement of penalties or for the fulfilment of the duty of national defence.

1. Traffic at internal borders

The Finnish border authorities will allow the following at internal borders, in other words in traffic between Finland and another Schengen State:

1. Return traffic to Finland

- a) Finnish citizens and their family members
- b) citizens of the EU and Schengen States living in Finland and their family members
- c) third-country nationals residing in Finland with a residence permit

2. Return traffic to or through other EU and Schengen States

- a) citizens of other EU and Schengen States and their family members
- b) third-country nationals residing in another EU or Schengen State with a residence permit

3. Travel for work and other essential traffic

- a) employment or commission-related commuting
- b) diplomats, staff of international organisations, military personnel and personnel of aid organisations in their duties
- c) persons studying in Finland
- d) persons arriving in Finland with a residence permit (including EU/Schengen citizens who have registered their right of residence and seasonal workers from a third country according to a separate quota)
- e) persons travelling for imperative family reasons (e.g. travelling to meet with an immediate family member or for their funeral, wedding or illness)
- f) persons in need of international protection or travelling otherwise for humanitarian reasons
- g) other essential and justified traffic (e.g. pressing personal reasons, representatives of foreign media, Sámi livelihoods and culture)

In addition, crossing the internal border in border rivers between Finland and Sweden and between Finland and Norway is permitted for fishing purposes without going ashore to the territory of another state.

Under section 9 of the Constitution of Finland, Finnish citizens shall not be prevented from entering Finland, and everyone has the right to leave the country. Limitations on this right may, however, be laid down by an act, if they are necessary for the purpose of safeguarding legal proceedings, for the enforcement of penalties or for the fulfilment of the duty of national defence.

In freight transport, in addition to international freight transport, distribution of goods from companies to consumers based on an order is allowed.

The purpose and conditions for employment and commission-related commuting will be assessed in connection with border checks. At border checks, a commuter may be requested to present documents verifying that the conditions for entry have been met. Such documents may include, in particular, documents on the employment relationship and commission.

The entry of third-country nationals arriving for seasonal work via another Schengen State will be documented in accordance with the specific instructions issued.

A person arriving in the country must restrict unnecessary close contacts and enter self-isolation for 14 days. Under self-isolation, the person is allowed to move between their workplace and place of residence and for other essential reasons.

This principle does not apply to emergency medical service and rescue service personnel or to employees of the Border Guard and Customs. However, these persons must follow the general guidelines of the authorities on good hygiene practices, maintaining a safe distance and avoiding physical contact in order to prevent the spread of the coronavirus disease. Anyone who experiences respiratory symptoms should contact healthcare services immediately.

Up-to-date instructions issued by the health authorities will be distributed upon arrival in the country.

2. Traffic at external borders

The Finnish border authorities will allow the following at external borders, in other words in traffic between Finland and a non-Schengen State, such as Russia:

1. Return traffic to Finland

- a) Finnish citizens and their family members
- b) citizens of the EU and Schengen States living in Finland and their family members
- c) third-country nationals residing in Finland with a residence permit

2. Return traffic to or through other EU and Schengen States

- a) citizens of other EU and Schengen States and their family members
- b) third-country nationals residing in another EU or Schengen State with a residence permit

3. Departure from the country of a third-country national

4. Essential traffic

- a) healthcare and rescue service personnel (including emergency medical services) and elderly care professionals
- b) freight transport and logistics personnel
- c) diplomats, staff of international organisations, military personnel and personnel of aid organisations in their duties
- d) persons arriving in Finland with a residence permit (including EU/Schengen citizens who have registered their right of residence and seasonal workers from a third country according to a separate quota)
- e) persons in need of international protection or travelling otherwise for humanitarian reasons
- f) other essential and justified traffic, such as work that is important for the functioning of society or for security of supply, that must be performed by a person or persons arriving from another country and that must be carried out without delay, employment or commission-related commuting of an EU or Schengen State citizen or a UK citizen arriving from a non-Schengen EU Member State or the United Kingdom, as well as persons travelling for imperative family reasons or for other compelling personal reasons
- g) foreign representatives of the press are allowed to arrive in Finland starting from 7.5.2020

A person arriving in the country must restrict unnecessary close contacts and enter self-isolation for 14 days. Under self-isolation, the person is allowed to move between their workplace and place of residence and for other essential reasons.

This principle does not apply to emergency medical service and rescue service personnel or to employees of the Border Guard and Customs. However, these persons must follow the general guidelines of the authorities on good hygiene practices, maintaining a safe distance and avoiding physical contact in order to prevent the spread of the coronavirus disease. Anyone who experiences respiratory symptoms should contact healthcare services immediately.

Up-to-date instructions issued by the health authorities will be distributed upon arrival in the country.

Under section 9 of the Constitution of Finland, Finnish citizens shall not be prevented from entering Finland, and everyone has the right to leave the country. Limitations on this right may, however, be laid down by an act, if they are necessary for the purpose of safeguarding legal proceedings, for the enforcement of penalties or for the fulfilment of the duty of national defence.

3. Other essential traffic at external borders

For the purpose of external border traffic, other essential traffic is considered, in particular, to cover such cross-border traffic related to work that is important for the functioning of society or for security of supply, that must be performed by a person or persons arriving from another country and that must be carried out without delay.

Work that is important for the functioning of society or for security of supply and that must be carried out without delay has been defined under the direction of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment. The list of critical tasks does not constitute an advance decision on who will be admitted into the country. The employer must use a separate form to justify why a worker arriving in Finland has a critical job and why the work must be performed without delay. The employer will fill in the form Employer's justification for the necessity of an employee entering the country during the state of emergency and give it to the employee. An employee attempting to enter Finland will present this form in the border check in addition to other documents required for crossing the border. The entry of those arriving in the country for this purpose will be documented in accordance with the specific instructions issued.

The border control authority will take into account the list of critical tasks and the employer's justification when assessing the necessity of traffic. Decisions regarding essential traffic are made by the border control authority in accordance with the Border Guard's instructions at each border crossing point on a case-by-case basis.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry will issue more detailed instructions on seasonal workers arriving from a third country.

4. Instructions for persons arriving in Finland on measures to prevent the spread of the epidemic caused by the Covid-19 virus

In order to prevent the spread of the coronavirus epidemic, the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health have jointly prepared the following guidelines and they recommend that:

Any person arriving in the country should avoid unnecessary close contact with others and carry out a self-imposed quarantine for a period of 14 days. Self-imposed quarantine means only travelling between the workplace and home and for essential reasons.

Those who work in social and health care should talk with their employer about possible work arrangements. The employer must assess the risk of infection and, if

necessary, change the employee's tasks for 14 days after their arrival in the country to ensure customer and patient safety and the safety of the work community.

It is not necessary for paramedics and rescue personnel or the Border Guard and Customs personnel to self-quarantine. However, in order to prevent the spread of coronavirus, these individuals should nevertheless follow general official guidelines on good hygiene practices, safety distances and avoidance of physical contact.

If anyone develops respiratory tract symptoms, they should immediately contact the health care services. More detailed instructions on the 14-day self-imposed quarantine are distributed when arriving in the country.