INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MOVERS

IAM COUNTRY GUIDE

Finland

CAPITAL	OFFICIAL LANGUAGE	CURRENCY
—	—	Euro (EUR)

Last verified: June 2026 | **Guide version:** 2.0 (update of July 2019 IAM guide)

Overview

Duty-Free Eligibility

Duty-free conditions (non-EU origin): Household goods and personal effects are duty-free if the goods have been owned and used by the shipper or their family abroad for at least 6 months, and the shipper's permanent place of residence has been outside the EU for at least 12 months. An employer's certificate may be requested to prove residency abroad. Goods must be imported within 12 months of the immigrant's arrival in Finland. In justified cases, the National Board of Customs may grant an exception to these rules if applied for in advance.

New items (non-EU origin): Subject to VAT (currently 25.5%, increased from 24% in September 2024) and customs duty. Must be declared separately on Customs Form 45 with a commercial invoice.

Wedding trousseaux: Duty-free if imported as personal property in connection with removal.

Inheritances: Duty-free if the legatee has their normal place of residence in Finland. Requires inventory, passport copy, copy of will or certified copy, and estate inventory.

Alcohol and tobacco: All alcohol and tobacco within household goods are subject to customs duty and VAT. A detailed inventory is required for each bottle listing type, volume, origin, percentage/proof, and approximate cost. Diplomats arriving from outside the EU need the "French Letter" or tax form 1330 for alcohol import. Finnish returning diplomats are NOT exempt from taxes on alcohol.

VAT rate: 25.5% (increased from 24% in September 2024).

Documents

From non-EU countries — Sea shipments

- **Sea waybill / express release**
- **Inventory with exact number of packages**
- **Copy of passport (page with picture)**
- **Import declaration (Customs Form 45) in Finnish, Swedish, or English**

From non-EU countries — Air shipments

- **Air waybill (AWB)**
- **Inventory with exact number of packages**
- **Copy of passport (page with picture)**
- **Import declaration (Customs Form 45)**

From EU member states

- **Inventory of goods (no customs formalities required)**

For diplomats

- **SWB / AWB**
- **Inventory with exact number of packages**
- **Copy of passport**
- **"Obligation for privilege" (known as the "French Letter") lodged by the Foreign Ministry, or valid tax form 1330 confirmed and signed by the relevant EU office**

Household Goods — Specific Information

Shipper must arrive first: The immigrant must have arrived in Finland before final customs clearance can take place.

Intra-EU moves: Personal property imported from the EU is admitted free of customs duty, tax, and other restrictions (except prohibitions under Article 36 of the Treaty of Rome). No customs formalities required.

Food: Dry food only in reasonable quantities for household use. Meat, meat products (including dry and canned meat), milk products, and dairy products from non-EU countries are prohibited.

ISPM 15: Standard EU requirement for all solid wood packaging from non-EU origins.

Currency: Euro (EUR). Finland adopted the euro on January 1, 1999.

Prohibited / Restricted Items

Prohibited Items

- Narcotics and illegal drugs of any kind — strictly prohibited
- Pornography and subversive material — prohibited
- Explosives, ammunition, and weapons including knives, swords, and fireworks — prohibited without police permit
- Feathers, furs, tusks, skins, etc. of animals on the Endangered Species List and those protected under CITES `CITES`
- Pirated/counterfeit goods — subject to confiscation and fines
- Meat, meat products, milk products, and dairy products from non-EU countries — prohibited

Restricted / Dutiable Items

Traveler Allowances (from non-EU countries, over 17/20 years)

Alcohol (over 20 years for spirits, 18 for other):

- 1 litre of spirits exceeding 22%, or 2 litres of alcohol not exceeding 22%
- 4 litres of still wine
- 16 litres of beer

Tobacco (over 17 years):

- 200 cigarettes, or 100 cigarillos, or 50 cigars, or 250g smoking tobacco

Restricted Items

- **Alcohol, narcotics, and tobacco within household goods** — all subject to customs duty and VAT; narcotics require special permits; detailed inventory required for each bottle
- **Firearms and ammunition** — special permit from police authorities required `PERMIT REQUIRED`
- **Live animals and animal products** — special permit required `PERMIT REQUIRED`
- **Plants and plant parts** — phytosanitary certificate required for non-EU products `PERMIT REQUIRED`
- **New items** — subject to VAT and duty; declared separately with commercial invoice
- **Art, antiques, and precious metal objects** — duty-free as part of household goods; otherwise subject to VAT and duty
- **Medical products** — doctor's prescription required if the product requires prescription in Finland
- **Weapons** — do not ship without consulting Finnish authorities first; load near container doors for inspection

Vehicles

Vehicle Documents

- **Copy of OBL / AWB**
- **Certificate of title / registration (for 6 months immediately before moving to Finland)**
- **Copy of passport**
- **Motor vehicle declaration on Customs Form 45**
- **Proof of ownership**
- **Commercial invoice**
- **Employment certificate or other document concerning the stay in Finland**
- **Driving license**
- **Date of arrival in Finland (travel ticket or passport stamp)**
- **Receipt of payment**
- **Traffic insurance documents (for 6 months immediately before moving to Finland)**

- **Document showing CO_2 emissions (certificate of conformity or similar)**
- **Shipping documents**
- **Form VEROH 1210s**

Specific Information

CRITICAL UPDATE: The car tax reduction for immigrants has been eliminated. The FIDI guide (March 2020) states: "The car tax has been amended and the amendments entered into force on 1st January 2015. The tax reduction for removal vehicles imported by immigrants has been eliminated." The IAM guide (July 2019) still references a EUR 13,450 tax reduction, which is outdated and no longer available.

All vehicles subject to car tax. Finland's car tax (autovero) applies to all vehicles, including those imported as part of a transfer of residence. The tax is based on the vehicle's CO_2 emissions and value. Car taxation is handled by the Tax Administration (Verohallinto), not by Customs.

Customs duty-free conditions still apply: The vehicle can be imported free of customs duty (but not car tax) if the immigrant has stayed abroad continuously for at least 12 months, the vehicle has been owned and used by the immigrant or spouse for at least 6 months immediately before the move, and only one vehicle per importer qualifies.

Alienation restriction: Vehicles imported duty-free by foreigners are subject to a prohibition on sale, hire, and transfer for 3 years, one of which must be in Finland.

EU-origin vehicles: Subject to the Finnish VAT Act and Car Tax Act. As a rule, VAT is not collected in Finland on vehicles imported as removal goods from within the EU.

Under-18 restriction: A tax reduction (when it existed) was not granted to persons under 18 or those who previously lived in Finland and stayed abroad mainly for education.

Caravans, trailers, snowmobiles, ATVs, mopeds: Duty-free if used by the immigrant or family abroad for at least 6 months. ATVs and snowmobiles do not need specific declaration if not intended for road traffic.

Recreational boats: Must meet EU directive 2003/44/EY. Restrictions apply. Load near container doors for customs inspection.

Car tax contact: Verohallinto, +358 29 497 152, http://www.vero.fi

Driving: Driving is on the RIGHT-hand side of the road.

Pets

Requirements

- **EU Pet Passport**
  From EU member states:
- **ISO 11784/11785 compliant microchip (implanted before rabies vaccination)**
  From EU member states:
- **Current rabies vaccination (pet must be at least 12 weeks old; 21-day wait after primary vaccination)**
  From EU member states:
- **ISO 11784/11785 compliant microchip**
  From non-EU listed countries (including USA, Canada, Australia, etc.):
- **Current rabies vaccination (primary: at least 21 days before travel)**
  From non-EU listed countries (including USA, Canada, Australia, etc.):
- **EU Health Certificate issued by a USDA-accredited veterinarian (for U.S. origin) and endorsed by USDA APHIS**
  From non-EU listed countries (including USA, Canada, Australia, etc.):
- **All of the above, plus**
  From non-EU unlisted countries:
- **Rabies antibody titer test at an EU-approved laboratory; result must be at least 0.5 IU/ml; 3-month wait after blood sample**
  From non-EU unlisted countries:

Specific Information

Finland follows EU pet import regulations. As of 21 April 2026, these are governed by Regulation (EU) 2016/429 (Animal Health Law), which replaces Regulation (EU) No 576/2013. Old-format health certificates issued under Reg. 576/2013 remain valid until 31 March 2027 if issued before 1 October 2026.

Finland-specific requirement: Echinococcus multilocularis (tapeworm) treatment for dogs. Dogs entering Finland must be treated against the tapeworm Echinococcus multilocularis between 24 and 120 hours (1-5 days) before entry. Treatment details must be recorded in the pet's passport or EU health certificate. This requirement is shared with Ireland, Malta, Norway, and Northern Ireland. It does not apply to dogs entering from these listed countries.

Microchip before vaccination rule: Standard EU requirement.

Primary vs. booster vaccination: Standard EU rules. 21-day waiting period after primary vaccination.

Pets without vaccination records will be returned to port of origin. This is explicitly stated in the IAM guide and confirmed by the FIDI guide.

From rabies-free countries: May be imported without rabies vaccination documentation. From all other countries: veterinary certificate of rabies vaccination required.

Pets imported duty-free with proof of ownership.

No quarantine for healthy pets with valid documentation from EU and listed non-EU countries.

CDC rabies status: Finland is NOT on the U.S. CDC's list of high-risk countries for dog rabies.

Common mistakes: Forgetting the tapeworm treatment for dogs (Finland-specific, must be within the 24-120 hour window). Vaccinating before microchip implantation. Not having the vaccination record (pet will be returned to origin). Not treating for tapeworm when transiting through Finland to another destination.

Consignment Instructions

Contact the destination agent to ensure all requirements have been met prior to import, especially for differences regarding air/sea shipments.

Car tax is the big-ticket item. The elimination of the EUR 13,450 immigrant tax reduction (effective January 2015) means all imported vehicles are subject to the full Finnish car tax based on CO2 emissions and value. This can be substantial. Customers should obtain a car tax estimate from Verohallinto before deciding to ship a vehicle.

Finnish returning diplomats pay alcohol tax. Unlike many countries where returning diplomats receive full privileges, Finnish returning diplomats are not exempt from taxes on alcohol and must declare it normally.

Alcohol inventory detail. Every bottle must be individually inventoried with type, volume, origin, percentage, and approximate cost. This level of detail is required for customs assessment.

Immigrant must arrive before customs clearance. The shipper must be in Finland before final clearance can occur. In justified cases, an advance exception may be granted by the National Board of Customs.

Recreational boats near container doors. Boats and outboard engines must be loaded near container doors for easy customs inspection. They must meet EU directive 2003/44/EY.

Port of entry: Helsinki (Vuosaari harbor), Turku, and Kotka are the main container ports. Helsinki-Vantaa Airport for air freight.

Cultural & Other Information

- OpenFactBook — Finland (replaces CIA World Factbook) — verified 200
- Wikipedia — Finland — verified 403 to bots, works in browser
- Finnish Customs (Tulli) — verified 200
- Finnish Tax Administration (Verohallinto) — verified 200 (car tax inquiries: +358 29 497 152)
- PetTravel.com — Finland Pet Import Requirements — verified 200
- EU Pet Travel Regulations — verified 200
- VisaHQ — Finland Customs — verified 200

EU membership: Finland joined the EU on January 1, 1995 and the Schengen Area on March 25, 2001. The EU Common Customs Tariff applies to non-EU imports.

Currency: Euro (EUR). Adopted January 1, 1999.

Languages: Finnish and Swedish are both official languages. English is widely spoken. Customs forms are accepted in Finnish, Swedish, or English.

VAT rate: 25.5% (increased from 24% in September 2024). This is one of the highest standard VAT rates in the EU.

Quick Links & Resources

- Find Movers in Finland (IAMX Directory)
  https://iamovers.mobilityex.com/index.html#/search?loc=Finland&lat=61.9241&lng=25.7482&range=50&assocs=800&fvw=c&ctry=Finland
- Foreign Embassies in Finland
  https://www.embassypages.com/finland
- OpenFactBook — Finland (replaces CIA World Factbook)
  https://www.openfactbook.org/countries/finland/
- Wikipedia — Finland
  https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Finland
- Finnish Customs (Tulli)
  https://tulli.fi/en