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Ref
Government restrictions on movement

Decision Restricting Aviation Activity to Limit the Spread of the Coronavirus

Decision

The Finnish Transport and Communications Agency is restricting flights arriving from and departing to destinations outside Finland's borders in Finnish airspace in the entirety of Finland's flight information region (HELSINKI FIR) with effect from 21:00 UTC on 12 July 2020 to 20:59 UTC on 26 July 2020, so that the following flights are permitted:

The Enontekiö, Helsinki-Malmi, Helsinki, Ivalo, Joensuu, Jyväskylä, Kajaani, Kemi-Tornio, Kittilä, Kokkola-Pietarsaari, Kuopio, Kuusamo, Lappeenranta, Mariehamn, Mikkeli, Oulu, Pori, Rovaniemi, Savonlinna, Seinäjoki, Tampere-Pirkkala, Turku and Vaasa Airports are international border-crossing points for air transport. The transport of cargo and the carriage of passengers is permitted at these airports subject to the restrictions detailed below.

The Åland, Hanko and Helsinki Coast Guard Stations, intended for aircraft that take off and land on water, are international border-crossing points for air transport. The carriage of passengers is permitted at these aerodromes subject to the restrictions detailed below.

Necessary transportation, including the return of persons residing in Finland or elsewhere, is permitted at border-crossing points intended for passenger traffic. Transit traffic at airports is also permitted.

The restrictions do not apply to transportation between Finland and Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, Austria, Greece, Malta, Germany, Slovakia, Slovenia, Hungary, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Cyprus, Ireland, Andorra, San Marino and Vatican City. Restrictions have been placed on cross-border traffic to and from the EU and Schengen Member States not listed above.

In addition to EU and Schengen Member States, travel for work is permitted between Finland and Algeria, Australia, Georgia, Japan, New Zealand, Rwanda, South Korea, Thailand, Tunisia, Uruguay and China.

Closing these border-crossing points and restricting traffic has no effect on the freedom of movement enshrined in section 9 of the Constitution of Finland, under which Finnish citizens may not be prevented from entering Finland. All persons also have the right to leave Finland, if their right to travel has not been restricted by means of a travel ban or other legal measure.

1. With regard to the territory of the European Union and the territory covered by the Schengen Agreement, the following is permitted: return traffic to Finland, return traffic to or through other EU and Schengen States, travel for work, and other necessary transportation.
2. With regard to other areas, the following is permitted: return traffic to Finland, return traffic to or through other EU and Schengen States, departure from Finland of a third-country national, and other necessary transportation.

Necessary transportation is considered to include state aviation, search and rescue services, fire prevention, medical service flights, and other comparable flights carried out for particular reasons. The definition of necessary transportation also includes flights carried out in the context of the operations of the Finnish Defence Forces or other state administrative bodies, or at their instruction.

In accordance with the memorandum appended to the Finnish Government's decision of 10 July 2020, the travel for work and other necessary transportation referred to in item 1 above shall also include travel by the following persons and other transportation as specified below:

- a) employment or commission-related commuting,
- b) diplomats, staff of international organisations, military personnel and personnel of aid organisations in the context of their professional duties,
- c) persons studying in Finland
- d) persons arriving in Finland with a residence permit as well as EU or Schengen citizens who have registered their right of residence,
- e) persons travelling for imperative family reasons (e.g. travelling to meet with a family member or relative, an intimate relationship, funeral, wedding or illness),
- f) persons in need of international protection or travelling for other humanitarian reasons,
- g) other necessary and justified travel (e.g. imperative personal reasons, representatives of the foreign press, transit air traffic at airports, property, residence or secondary residence in Finland, property arrangements in Finland, practice of the Sami people's livelihood and culture).

In accordance with the memorandum appended to the Finnish Government's decision of 10 July 2020, the necessary transportation referred to in item 2 above shall also include travel by the following persons and other transportation as specified below:

- a) healthcare and rescue service personnel (including emergency medical services) and elderly care professionals in the context of their professional duties,

- b) freight transport and logistics personnel in the context of their professional duties,
- c) diplomats, staff of international organisations, military personnel and personnel of aid organisations in the context of their professional duties,
- d) persons arriving in Finland with a residence permit as well as EU or Schengen citizens who have registered their right of residence,
- e) persons in need of international protection or travelling for other humanitarian reasons,
- f) imperative family matters or other imperative personal reasons
- g) other essential and justified traffic, such as work that is important for the functioning of society or for the security of supply, that must be performed by a person or persons arriving from another country and carried out without delay, representatives of the foreign press, flights transiting through Finnish airports, and the arrival in Finland of a Finnish citizen's family member residing outside Finland.

This Decision does not apply to overflights in Finnish airspace or technical stopovers.

The Finnish Transport and Communications Agency will ask Air Navigation Services Finland Oy to take immediate action with regard to the necessary publications.

Grounds for the decision

On 10 July 2020, the Finnish Government decided on measures related to border control, border-crossing points and restrictions on traffic. In order to implement the Government's decisions, the Finnish Transport and Communications Agency is placing restrictions on flights due to reasons deemed essential with regard to maintaining public order and security as well as border security. The restrictions shall apply in the entirety of Finland's flight information region.

The Decision has been made without hearing the views of relevant parties. Under section 34 of the Administrative Procedure Act, a matter may be decided without hearing the views of a party if the hearing of views is manifestly unnecessary. Not hearing parties is justified as the Agency issues this Decision in order to implement the decisions of the Finnish Government, and the matter is thus not subject to the Agency's discretion.

Provisions applied

Section 11 of the Aviation Act (864/2014)

Enquiries

Jari Pöntinen, Director, tel. +358 29 534 6071, jari.pontinen(at)traficom.fi.

Pietari Pentinsaari
Director

Päivi Metsävainio
Head of Team

This document has been signed electronically. Finnish Transport and Communications Agency (Traficom) 10.7.2020. The authenticity of the signatures can be verified using document reader software that supports electronic signatures or by contacting the Traficom Registry.

C.C.

Ministry of Transport and Communications
ANS Finland / EFIN-AMC
Finavia Plc

AMC-MIL

Finnish Aeronautical
Association

Aircraft Owners and Pi-
lots Association of Fin-
land

FinnHems

Attachments

Instructions for filing a claim for a revised decision