

Date
25 May 2020
Ind.No
TRAFICOM/115685/05.00.12.00/2020
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 27 May 2020 to 20:59 UTC on 10 June 2020, so that the following flights are permitted:

- Cargo flights and necessary transportation for which the Finnish Border Guard has issued a border crossing permit are permitted at Enontekiö, Ivalo, Joensuu, Jyväskylä, Kajaani, Kemi-Tornio, Kittilä, Kokkola-Pietarsaari, Kuopio, Kuusamo, Lappeenranta, Mikkeli, Oulu, Pori, Rovaniemi, Savonlinna, Seinäjoki, Tampere-Pirkkala and Vaasa Airports.

- At Helsinki, Turku and Mariehamn Airports, cargo flights and the carriage of passengers is permitted as follows:

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 decision of 7 May 2020 of the Finnish Government, 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 their duties,
- c) persons studying in Finland,
- d) persons arriving in Finland with a residence permit (including EU or 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 for other humanitarian reasons,
- g) other necessary and justified travel (e.g. imperative personal reasons, practice of the Saami people's livelihood and culture), and
- h) foreign representatives of the press, who are allowed to arrive in Finland starting from 7 May 2020.

In accordance with the decision of 7 May 2020 of the Finnish Government, the other 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,
- 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 for other humanitarian reasons,
- f) 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 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, and
- g) foreign representatives of the press, who are allowed to arrive in Finland starting from 7 May 2020.

Other arriving and departing flights shall be subject to the issue of a border crossing permit by the Finnish Border Guard.

This Decision shall 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 16 March 2020 the Government decided on the following transport-related measures to address the coronavirus outbreak in Finland: *"Passenger transport to Finland will be suspended as soon as possible, with the exception of the return of Finnish citizens and persons residing in Finland. Finnish citizens and persons residing in Finland must not travel abroad. Finnish tourists abroad are advised to return to Finland immediately. Necessary travel for work and to access other necessary services will be permitted across the northern and western borders. Freight and goods traffic will continue as usual."* The Government specified the content of these measures further in its decision of 17 March 2020, and decided on 7 April 2020 to extend the duration of the restrictions until 13 May 2020.

On 7 May 2020, the Government issued decisions extending the validity of the decision on temporarily reintroducing border controls at internal borders and amending the decision, and extending the validity of the decision on temporarily closing certain border-crossing points and restricting cross-border traffic for the period from 14 May 2020 to 14 June 2020.

In order to implement the Government's decisions, the Finnish Transport and Communications Agency is restricting flights due to reasons deemed essential with regard to maintaining public order and security and border security. The restrictions shall apply to international passenger flights to and from Finland in the entirety of Finland's flight information region. Pursuant to section 13 of the Border Guard Act (578/2005), The Border Guard gives persons permission to cross the external border at places other than border crossing points and at times other than the official opening hours of border crossing points (border crossing permit). Border crossing permits are issued if there is a compelling reason and if the procedure does not endanger border management. The permits may include terms and conditions necessary to ensure border management.

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 delay to the consideration of the matter as a result of the hearing of views would cause considerable detriment to public health. The Agency considers that hearings could result in such detriment, and issuing this Decision without hearing parties is thus justified.

Provisions applied

Section 11 of the Aviation Act (864/2014)

Enquiries

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

Jarkko Saarimäki
Deputy Director General

Jari Pöntinen
Director, Transport System Services

This document has been signed electronically. Finnish Transport and Communications Agency (Traficom) 25.5.2020. 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
AMC-MIL
Finavia Plc
Finnish Aeronautical Association
Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association of Finland
FinnHems

Attachments

Instructions for filing a claim for a revised decision