

Date
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Ref
Government restrictions on movement

Decision Restricting Aviation Activity to Limit the Spread of the Coronavirus

Decision

With the exception of transportation between Finland and Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, the Finnish Transport and Communications Agency is restricting flights arriving from and departing to destinations outside Finland's borders in Finnish airspace and in the entirety of Finland's flight information region (HELSINKI FIR) with effect from 21:00 UTC on 28 June 2020 to 20:59 UTC on 12 July 2020, so that the following flights are permitted:

The Enontekiö, 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.

Necessary transportation, including the return of persons residing in Finland or in another EU or Schengen Member State, is permitted at border-crossing points intended for passenger traffic. Travel for work is also permitted between Finland and another EU or Schengen Member State.

The border-crossing points at the Åland, Hanko and Helsinki Coast Guard Stations intended for aircraft that take off and land on water are closed. At these aerodromes it is therefore permitted to operate flights between Finland and Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, but other flights are subject to the issue of a border crossing permit by the Finnish Border Guard.

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 12 June 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 their 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 an immediate family member, 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, a property, residence or secondary residence in Finland).

In accordance with the memorandum appended to the Finnish Government's decision of 12 June 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) employment or commission-related commuting undertaken by a citizen of an EU or Schengen State or of the United Kingdom from an EU Member State not part of the Schengen Agreement or from the United Kingdom,
- b) healthcare and rescue service personnel (including emergency medical services) and elderly care professionals in the context of their professional duties,
- c) freight transport and logistics personnel in the context of their professional duties,
- d) diplomats, staff of international organisations, military personnel and personnel of aid organisations in the context of their professional duties,
- e) persons arriving in Finland with a residence permit as well as EU or Schengen citizens who have registered their right of residence,
- f) persons in need of international protection or travelling for other humanitarian 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 that must be carried out without delay, representatives of the foreign press, flights transiting through Helsinki Airport, 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 12 June 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 and 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

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This document has been signed electronically. Finnish Transport and Communications Agency (Traficom) 25.6.2020. 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