

Date
1 April 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 suspending all 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 2 April 2020 to 20:59 UTC on 13 April 2020, with the exceptions specified below.

- The following arrivals are permitted at Helsinki, Turku and Mariehamn Airports: Cargo flights, return flights of Finnish citizens and persons residing in Finland or in another EU Member State, necessary business travel and other necessary travel.
- Only cargo flight arrivals and arrivals 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.

Necessary travel 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 travel 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.

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

The 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.

In order to implement the Government's decisions of 16 and 17 March 2020, the Finnish Transport and Communications Agency is suspending 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) xx.xx.xxxx. 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 Oyj
Finnish Aeronautical Association
Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association of Finland
FinnHems

Attachments

Instructions for filing a claim for a revised decision