

Import of foodstuffs of animal origin into Finland from other EU member states

What is internal market import?

It refers to importing foodstuffs of animal origin (such as meat, milk, eggs, cheeses or products containing them) from other countries of the European Union.

What is the special guarantee?

Salmonella is much less prevalent in animals and foodstuffs in Finland and Sweden than in other European countries. Therefore, Finland and Sweden have been granted the right to apply stricter conditions than other EU countries regarding importing foodstuffs of animal origin.

What are the consignment requirements?

Requirements under the special guarantee regulation are in brief as follows:

Scope of application:

- Raw (fresh or frozen) **meat from bovine and porcine animals and poultry** (incl. offal and blood) or minced meat thereof, and eggs.
 - The requirements under the special guarantee regulation **do not apply** to beef and veal and pigmeat and poultry meat and eggs received from Sweden and Norway; chicken and eggs received from Denmark; and chicken and turkey meat and eggs received from Iceland. The requirements do not apply to meat preparations (incl. salt or other spices).

Consignments must be accompanied by

- commercial document concerning salmonella**
- salmonella test certificate from a laboratory**

→ the documents must be traceable to the imported products !

Also, note the following:

- The commercial document must be in accordance with Annex IV to the special guarantee regulation (EC) 1688/2005 or another document containing equivalent information. The document must be in Finnish, Swedish or English.
- Salmonella samples shall have been taken in the dispatching establishment.

In-house control:

- the importer must explain the import and its requirements in its in-house control plan and also the measures to be taken in the event of any deficiencies
- the operator must take in-house control samples of the imported products for salmonella (from 5–10% of incoming consignments).

NOTE! The food business operator is responsible for the safety of the products it imports and distributes and for compliance with the requirements of the legislation.

Legislation:

Commission Regulation (EC) No 1688/2005 on special guarantees concerning salmonella for consignments to Finland and Sweden

I want to import foodstuffs of animal origin from within the EU; what should I do?

1. Register with the municipal food inspection authority as an importer of foodstuffs from the internal market
 - If you already have registered food premises, fill in the form for registering as an importer from the internal market ("Notification of importing foodstuffs of animal origin from the internal market") and submit it to the municipal food control.
 - If you do not already have registered food premises:
 - i. fill in the notification of food premises in the ILPPA service (<https://ilppa.fi/etusivu>) or submit the notification form (<https://www.hel.fi/en/business-and-work/businesses-and-entrepreneurs/permits-and-facilities-for-businesses/registering-a-food-business>) directly to the food control
 - ii. fill in the form for registering as an importer from the internal market (http://www.hel.fi/static/ymp/lomakkeet/el_lomakkeet/notification-of-internal-market-imports.docx) and submit it to food control.

! Make sure to submit the notification at least 14 days before the commencement, substantial modification or cessation of the imports from the internal market. The notification form is available on the City of Helsinki Environmental Services' website: <https://www.hel.fi/en/business-and-work/businesses-and-entrepreneurs/permits-and-facilities-for-businesses/registering-a-food-business>
2. Once the operation has started, submit import reports to the Finnish Food Authority
 - Each imported consignment must be reported to the Finnish Food Authority.
 - The report can be made through the Finnish Food Authority's online service (<https://www.ruokavirasto.fi/en/about-us/services/sahkoinen-asiointi/the-monthly-report-form-for-intra-EU-trade-operators/>) or by using the form by email

! reports by email must also be submitted to the municipal control unit.

 - The report must be submitted at least four times a year.
3. Make an in-house control plan regarding the import in which you state
 - what you import and from where
 - what you check for when the product arrives (acceptance inspections), and what documents you require and check when the consignment arrives
 - what do you do if you notice any deficiencies
 - which samples you take, when and how many.
4. Only import foodstuffs of animal origin from approved establishments

! You can check the approved establishments at <https://www.ruokavirasto.fi/en/themes/import-and-export/eu-countries-norway-and-switzerland/food/for-intra-EU-trade-operators-of-food-of-animal-origin/>.

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