

Finland

The information provided below refers to legal provisions adopted or modified pursuant to the implementation of the Services Directive as well as to legal provisions which Member States have indicated as being applicable to service providers in the areas covered by the directive. The information has been provided by Finland in the context of the implementation of the Services Directive and of the mutual evaluation process. It does not represent a legal analysis or a position of the European Commission in respect of compliance with EU law in general or with the Services Directive in particular. National legal provisions might have been amended during the mutual evaluation process so interested parties are invited to check national legislation in force.

Main changes to Finnish legislation

To implement the Services Directive, Finland adopted the Provision of Services Act¹, a horizontal law which entered into force on 28 December 2009. Two amendments to existing legislation were passed in conjunction with this: an amendment to the Act on the Cross-Border Injunction Procedure² and an amendment to the Act on the Consumer Agency³.

Examples of authorisation schemes imposed on service providers established in Finland

Finland has reported authorisation schemes in several service sectors, taking the form of licences, permits or registrations.⁴

For instance, authorisations are required in the field of retail in respect of various activities involving alcoholic substances.⁵

In the field of tourism, the provision of package holiday services is subject to registration in the package holiday register.⁶

Companies performing electrical work or work on lifts⁷ are required to submit a notification to the Safety Technology Authority (Tukes) before starting their activities. Authorisations are imposed for the inspection of vehicles⁸ and for motorcar repair shop activities⁹.

The provision of driving school services¹⁰ is subject to an authorisation.

Real estate agencies and rental housing agencies may provide services only if they are entered in the register of estate agencies.¹¹

¹ Act on the Provision of Services, [Laki palvelujen tarjoamisesta](#) (1166/2009).

² Act amending Section 1 of the Act on the Cross-Border Injunction Procedure, [Laki rajat ylittävästä kieltomenettelystä annetun lain 1 §:n muuttamisesta](#) (1167/2009).

³ Act amending Section 1 of the Act on the Consumer Agency, [Laki Kuluttajavirastosta annetun lain 1 §:n muuttamisesta](#) (1168/2009).

⁴ The applicable legal acts can be found in Finnish and Swedish in the Finlex legislative database. Unofficial English translations of some of the acts are also available in Finlex: <http://www.finlex.fi/en/laki/kaannokset/>.

⁵ Alcohol Act, [Alkoholilaki](#) (1143/1994).

⁶ Act on Package Travel Companies, [Laki valmismatkaliikkeistä](#) (939/2008).

⁷ Electrical Safety Act, [Sähköturvallisuuslaki](#) (410 /1996).

⁸ Act on Licences for Vehicle Inspection, [Laki ajoneuvojen katsastusluvista](#) (1099/1998).

⁹ Vehicles Act, [Ajoneuvolaki](#) (1090/2002).

¹⁰ Road Traffic Act, [Tieliikennelaki](#) (267/1981).

¹¹ The register is maintained by the Regional State Administrative Agency. Act on Estate Agents and Rental Agents, [Laki kiinteistönvälitysluokista ja vuokrahuoneiston välitysluokista](#) (1075/2000).

Private social service providers¹² who run a business providing 24-hour social services also must have an authorisation provided by the Regional State Administrative Agency. Service providers operating a business providing other than 24-hour private social services must submit a written notification to the authorities.¹³

An authorisation is also applicable to debt collection on behalf of others.¹⁴

In respect of certain activities, compliance with hygiene rules is monitored through a prior inspection and approval of the premises. Service providers must notify the municipal health protection authority in writing of the activities defined in the Health Protection Act¹⁵. Such activities include, for example, setting up a work area inside a residential building if this may produce undesirable health effects and establishing a hotel or other accommodation facility. Notification is also required for public swimming pools and spas, hairdressing salons, barber shops, beauty salons, chiropody practices, tattoo studios and tanning salons.

Under the Environmental Protection Act¹⁶, a service provider may need an environmental permit for activities that involve a risk of environmental pollution. These include, for example, dry cleaners, dairies, outdoor motor sport tracks, outdoor shooting ranges, zoos and amusement parks.

Examples of other types of requirements imposed on service providers established in Finland

On the basis of what has been reported to the Commission, there are some legal form requirements in Finland. For instance, only a legal person registered in Finland may operate a vehicle inspection facility¹⁷ and only a legal person may run a centre for training bus drivers and certain other professional drivers¹⁸. Training for taxi drivers is the only activity reported as being subjected to territorial restrictions¹⁹.

Finland has not reported to the Commission any requirements imposing fixed tariffs, minimum numbers of employees or obligations to provide services jointly, nor has Finland notified any shareholding requirements.

Examples of requirements on multidisciplinary activities of the regulated professions or in the area of certification, accreditation, technical monitoring and testing services

Finland has not reported to the Commission any such requirements.

¹² ‘Private social services’ consist of child and youth welfare services, child daycare, care of the disabled or the elderly, and substance abuse rehabilitation services.

¹³ Act on the Supervision of Private Social Services, [*Yksityisten sosiaalipalvelujen valvonnasta annettu laki*](#) (603/1996).

¹⁴ Act on Authorisations for the Recovery of Debts, [*Laki perintätoiminnan luvanvaraisuudesta*](#) (517/1999).

¹⁵ Health Protection Act, [*Terveysuojelulaki*](#) (763/1994).

¹⁶ Environmental Protection Act, [*Ympäristönsuojelulaki*](#) (86/2000).

¹⁷ Act on Licences for Vehicle Inspection, [*Laki ajoneuvojen katsastusluvista*](#) (1099/1998).

¹⁸ Act on the Professional Qualifications of Truck and Bus Drivers, [*Laki kuorma- ja linja-auton kuljettajien ammattipätevyydestä*](#) (273/2007); Act on the Professional Qualifications of Taxi Drivers, [*Laki taksinkuljettajien ammattipätevyydestä*](#) (695/2009).

¹⁹ Decree on the Professional Qualifications of Taxi Drivers, [*Valtioneuvoston asetus taksinkuljettajien ammattipätevyydestä*](#) (825/2009).

Examples of requirements which apply to service providers established in other Member States and providing services in Finland

Finland has not reported any specific requirements as applicable to cross-border service providers with the exception of the Ålands Islands.²⁰

²⁰ The Åland Islands region has a special status confirmed in connection with Finland's accession to the European Union.