Finland

Competent authority:

Vehicles can be registered at any vehicle inspection office.

What documents do I need to present to register a car?

When bringing a vehicle into Finland you need to submit a declaration of use for your vehicle. This can be done online here (you can submit the declaration using most mobile devices). Secondly, you need to acquire Finnish transfer permit from the Finnish Customs. Make sure that you have a motor liability insurance or transfer insurance before you drive in Finland, this can be obtained from the Finnish Customs. Submit a car tax declaration within five days of submitting the declaration of use. Once you have done this you can use the car tax-free until the due date of the car tax provided that the vehicle has a valid EEA registration or transfer permit, an insurance and is roadworthy.

The right to use the vehicle based on the declaration of use ends on the due date of the car tax. After this, the vehicle can only be used if it is registered in Finland.

Registration documents:

- The contract of sale
- The original registration certificate
- The document showing the vehicle’s CO2 emissions can be a registration certificate issued in an EEA state showing details about the vehicles EC type approval as well as variant and version numbers, or a certificate of conformity (CoC).

If the car was sold with a valid foreign vehicle inspection certificate, is this recognised in Finland?

A valid foreign vehicle inspection may be recognised in Finland. Usually this requires that the certificate is no more than 6 months old. A registration inspection – a somewhat lighter version of a technical inspection is mandatory, however. Average costs of technical inspection in Finland EUR 75.

Is it mandatory to show proof of insurance to the registration service?

Every vehicle must be covered by insurance allowing it to be driven on public roads. Further information can be provided by the Finnish Customs and/or the Finnish Transport Safety Agency.

To whom should VAT be paid?

A car is considered new if no more than 6 months have passed since the date on which it was first registered or if its mileage does not exceed 6 000 km. For intra-EU transactions, new cars are VAT exempt. Thus, the supplier should not charge VAT. Instead, if you have bought a new car in another EU Member State with the intention of importing it to and registering it in your country of residence, you must pay VAT in your own Member State at that country’s rate.

All other cars are considered second hand (more than 6 months since the date of first registration and mileage of more than 6 000 km). They are generally sold inclusive of VAT if the supplier is a taxable person for VAT purposes. You don’t have to pay VAT in your country of residence.

VAT should be paid to the Finnish Customs.
Before final registration, can I drive in Finland with temporary plates?

Yes, for a maximum of 3 months. The right to use the vehicle based on the declaration of use ends on the due date of the car tax.

Whom do I contact in the event of difficulties with the registration authority/administration?

You can contact the SOLVIT Centre Finland for help with any difficulties.

If you have a question linked to your consumer rights when purchasing a car cross-border, contact your local ECC: www.ecc.fi