

## **Finnish Customs 18 March 2020**

Due to the urgent need to contain the spread of COVID-19 in Finland and the related need to maintain the core functions of the society, the Finnish Government has issued a nationwide emergency legislation to be implemented starting from the 18<sup>th</sup> of March.

As it currently stands, the emergency procedures will be in place until the 13<sup>th</sup> of April, unless otherwise decided.

In practice this means that the critical sectors of the society will be upheld – including, but not limited to, border authorities, security authorities, hospitals and other emergency authorities. Schools will be closed, apart from certain exceptions. Public gatherings are limited to the maximum of ten people.

All civil servants with the possibility of working from home are ordered to work from home henceforth, with the exception of those who work for the critical functions and sectors.

Passenger traffic to Finland will be halted, with the exception of Finnish citizens and residents returning home. Necessary commute over the northern and western borders can still be allowed. Goods traffic will continue in a normal manner.

In Finnish customs all personnel except for those working in critical functions have been instructed to work from home from the 18<sup>th</sup> of March onwards. The critical functions include:

- Customs control officers;
- Crime prevention officers (incl. risk analysis officers);
- National contact point;
- Customs operational centre;
- Customs clearance personnel;
- IT managers (especially those responsible for troubleshooting);
- Key personnel for Customs Statistics unit;
- Guarantee management;
- IT Infrastructure maintenance and management personnel, including subcontractors;
- Critical administrative functions (HR, premises, procurement, security, translation, communications)
- Customs Laboratory;
- Product safety officers;
- Officers working for development projects that have a legal obligation to be completed according to schedules (e.g. those working for the VAT eCommerce Package).