

Patents and Trademarks

Manufacturers and traders are advised to patent their inventions and register their trademarks in Finland. Applications should be made through a patent or trademark agent in Finland.

Patents are granted for a term of 20 years from the date of filing. Applications may be made by the inventor or his assignee. The invention must not have been made available to the public anywhere by written or oral description or any other way prior to the filing date or the convention date of the application.

The first applicant is entitled to the registration of a trademark but a prior user may contest the registrations within a period of five years from registration date. Registrations last for ten years and may be renewed for the same period. Applications for renewal should be made not more than one year before or six months after expiration of the registration period.

Investment

There are no written official rules concerning foreign investments; individual applications are considered on their merits in the light of general government policy. Application for investment in Finland is to be made in writing to the Bank of Finland.

Your Business Trip to Finland

A business trip to Finland, particularly the first one, should be planned well in advance with the co-operation of the Canadian Trade Commissioner in Helsinki.

The Canadian Embassy staff is prepared to make various appointments and hotel reservations because of very limited hotel space and similar arrangements for visiting businessmen — provided sufficient notice is given. Full information on the purpose of your trip, contacts you may have established, detailed product information and your exact time of arrival are, of course, essential. Last minute changes in plans are difficult to accommodate and can result in great inconvenience to the visitor.

The Trade Commissioner can inform you of holidays that might coincide with your planned trip, of local regulations and standards regarding your product as