

When responsibility for compliance with the local regulations rests with the importer, the prudent Canadian exporter should follow the importer's directions. Failure to do so can delay customs clearance with loss of sales and goodwill.

Insurance

There are numerous cargo insurance companies operating in Finland.

The Customs Laboratory

The Customs Laboratory is responsible for ensuring that imported products conform with existing health hazard and purity regulations. By taking samples for analysis, the Customs Laboratory monitors poisonous substances in painted and plastic toys, glazed earthenware, etc. Foodstuffs are analyzed for the presence of pesticides, herbicides and other unwanted substances. If samples are found to be unacceptable, the whole shipment will be denied entry to Finland. The monitoring of imports in Finland is said to be the most rigid in Europe.

The Electrical Inspectorate

All electrical appliances and equipment which are intended for public use must be approved prior to importation by a compulsory safety testing procedure by the Electrical Inspectorate. Testing may be time-consuming and costly. Testing certification can only be signed by a firm registered in Finland or a Finnish citizen.

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

The Ministry has several departments which restrict the importation of animals and plants to prevent the spread of diseases, insects or other harmful material.

A health certificate from the country of origin is often required.