

Regulation relevant to alien species - Finland (FI)

Regulations concerning alien species legislation are found in the Nature Conservation Act, in the Hunting Act and in the Fishing Act. In Nature Conservation Act the emphasis is on maintaining biodiversity, conserving nature's beauty and scenic values whilst in the Fishing and Hunting Act the aim is to regulate the hunting to obtain sustainable use of natural resources.

The Nature Conservation Act applies to all naturally occurring plants and animal species in Finland with exception to of game animals and non-protected animals referred to in section 5 of the Hunting Act and commercial fish species. The protection of species section 37 of Nature Conservation Act is applied also to fungi and it is also applies to sub-species, breeds, populations and forms.

Only some of the legal texts are available in English and can be found in the internet. Materials concerning the Hunting and Fishing act has been collected and added to the table, by Sauli Härkönen at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

The emphasis of the regulation part is on the effects on native (natural) vegetation, hence the effects on crops and animal protection issues has not been included in this overview. The responsibility for the plant and animal protection is under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. There are specific laws on animal and plant protection. These materials may be added later on.

Secondary regulation has not been included since it does not yet include regulations concerning alien species. These regulations are in force within plant and animal protection under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. The Ballast water species issues are still in preparation and they will be included when ready.

Name of Act (area)	Nature Conservation Act
Number of act	1096/1996 December 29, 1996
Special section(s) relevant to IAS	43§
Content of regulations - mode of operation.	Non-native species falling outside the purview of the Hunting Act or Fishing Act are not to be released into the wild if there is a cause to suspect that the species may become established permanently
Link to national version (natl language) or a file (word or pdf)	http://www.finlex.fi/linkit/ajansd/19961096000
If available in English – link to UK version:	http://www.finlex.fi/fi/laki/kaannokset/1996/en19961096.pdf

Name of Act (area)	Hunting Act
Number of act	Act no. 615 of 1993, and later change no. 1268 of 1993
Special section(s) relevant to IAS	Article 42
Content of regulations - mode of operation.	<p>Wild bird or mammal species of foreign origin, as well as game species of foreign origin, cannot be imported or released into the wild without the permission of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.</p> <p>A statement on a permit application must be requested from the Ministry of Environment.</p> <p>If import or release into the wild would cause significant harm to the natural environment or animals dependent upon the same, the permit application will be refused.</p> <p>However, if permission is granted, the permit may contain stipulations on how importing and releasing into the natural environment are to be carried out.</p> <p>The same regulations apply to the bringing of an animal from the Åland Islands for release into the wild in some other area of Finland.</p>
Link to national version (natl language) or a file (word or pdf)	http://www.finlex.fi/linkit/ajansd/19930615
If available in English – link to UK version:	http://www.finlex.fi/fi/laki/kaannokset/1993/en19930615.pdf
Name of Act (area)	Fishing Act
Number of act	Act no. 286 of 1982, and later change no. 252 of 1998
Special section(s) relevant to IAS	Article 94
Content of regulations - mode of operation.	The import of a fish or crayfish species not occurring naturally in Finland or of their stock or gametes is allowed only by permission of the Ministry concerned and on the terms and conditions specified by it. Permission must be denied if the measure may cause significant harm to nature or wild

	animals. Provisions on fish or crayfish species that be imported freely shall be given by decree as necessary.
Link to national version (natl language) or a file (word or pdf)	http://www.finlex.fi/linkit/ajansd/19820286000
If available in English – link to UK version:	http://www.finlex.fi/pdf/saadkaan/E9820286.PDF
Name of Act (area)	Law on trade in forest reproductive material
Number of act	No. 241/2002
Special section(s) relevant to IAS	Chapter 3
Content of regulations - mode of operation.	Ch. 3, § 8 – Genetically modified basic material used for production of forest reproductive material can only be used if it meets the requirements of Annex V of the Forest reproductive material Directive and if the necessary examinations and other procedures have been performed in order to identify and avoid adverse effects on human health and the environment and it has been approved in a proceeding under the Gene Technology Act or the legislation implementing the European Community rules on production and marketing of basic material.
Link to national version (natl language) or a file (word or pdf)	http://www.finlex.fi/fi/laki/alkup/2002/20020241
If available in English – link to UK version:	
Name of Act (area)	Animal Diseases Act
Number of act	No. 55/1980
Special section(s) relevant to IAS	
Content of regulations - mode of operation.	§12g - Animals and animal products, which may result in animal disease or a serious contagious disease spread risk, which is not present in Finland, may be only imported from other European Union

	Member States to Finland or exported from Finland to other European Union Member States by companies registered with the Food Safety Authority. The Minister of Agriculture and Forestry issues detailed rules for registration and registration requirements concerning the application procedure.
Link to national version (natl language) or a file (word or pdf)	http://www.finlex.fi/fi/laki/ajantasa/1980/19800055
If available in English – link to UK version:	Not available in English
Name of Act (area)	Plant Health Protection Act
Number of act	No. 702/2003
Special section(s) relevant to IAS	
Content of regulations - mode of operation.	<p>Ch. 1, §3 – Defines pests as harmful organisms associated with animal and plant kingdom, fungi, bacteria and phytoplasma and viruses and other pathogens that occur on plants or plant products and which can cause direct or indirect damage to crops, wild plants and products derived from them.</p> <p>Ch. 2, § 4 - Plants, plant products and other objects, with which pests can spread easily, can be marketed, produced for marketing, stored and imported only by an operator who is registered with the Control Centre of Plant Production after a specified procedure.</p> <p>Ch. 3, §11 - To combat pests or prevent their spread a landowner, farmer or an owner or owners of a property or a part thereof, can be ordered to take the necessary measures for the eradication of pests that occur on the property. If necessary, it can also be determined to ban or limit cultivation and transport of and trade in plants.</p>
Link to national version (natl language) or a file (word	http://www.finlex.fi/fi/laki/ajantasa/2003/20030702

or pdf)	
If available in English – link to UK version:	
Name of Act (area)	Seedlings Material Act
Number of act	No. 1205/1994
Special section(s) relevant to IAS	
Content of regulations - mode of operation.	Ch. 2, § 6 - The Plant Production Inspection Centre can provide and publish recommendations for species suitable for outdoors planting in the Finnish growth conditions (fruit trees and berry plants, and bi- and perennial ornamental plants).
Link to national version (natl language) or a file (word or pdf)	http://www.finlex.fi/fi/laki/alkup/1994/19941205
If available in English – link to UK version:	
Name of Act (area)	Seed Trading Act
Number of act	No. 728/2000
Special section(s) relevant to IAS	
Content of regulations - mode of operation.	§7 – The Minister of Agriculture and Forestry may prohibit the marketing of seeds of one variety of an agricultural plant in the country or in a given field, if cultivation of this variety could cause damage to the cultivation of other species or varieties with regard to plant health.
Link to national version (natl language) or a file (word or pdf)	http://www.finlex.fi/fi/laki/ajantasa/2000/20000728
If available in English – link to UK version:	

Name of Act (area)	Act on Combating Insect and Fungus Destruction in Forests
Number of act	No. 263/1991
Special section(s) relevant to IAS	
Content of regulations - mode of operation.	§ 6 - If there are unusually wide insect or fungus damage in a forest or there is otherwise a risk of spread or emergence of a major insect or fungus damage, the Ministry of Forestry can, in order to prevent the spread or development of the forest damage, impose on landowners in the risk area to remove a sufficient number of trees from the forest or to take other action. The Forestry Centre can even take action even without consulting the landowners if a hearing cannot be made without undue delay.
Link to national version (natl language) or a file (word or pdf)	http://www.finlex.fi/fi/laki/ajantasa/1991/19910263
If available in English – link to UK version:	
Name of Act (area)	Forest Act
Number of act	No. 1093/1996
Special section(s) relevant to IAS	
Content of regulations - mode of operation.	Sec. 8.5 - The Ministry may issue further general regulations concerning the use of non-indigenous tree species for artificial forest regeneration and use of vegetative propagated forest regeneration material.
Link to national version (natl language) or a file (word or pdf)	http://www.finlex.fi/fi/laki/ajantasa/1996/19961093
If available in English – link to UK version:	

Not legally-binding texts:

Name of Act (area)	National Strategy and Action Plan for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Finland for the period 2006-2016
Number of act	
Special section(s) relevant to IAS	<p>p. 119 – mentions invasive species in relation to climate change.</p> <p>p. 125 – describes the problem with invasive species in Finland and what is being done on the issue (biodiversity). It is also mentioned that Finland is working on a National strategy and action plan for invasive species.</p>
Content of regulations - mode of operation.	
Link to national version (natl language) or a file (word or pdf)	http://www.ymparisto.fi/download.asp?contentid=59018
If available in English – link to UK version:	