

These instructions are valid from 1 January 2019 until further notice.

Temporary use in traffic of vehicles with test plates

Upon application, the Finnish Transport and Communications Agency Traficom can grant companies a test plate certificate entitling them to use a vehicle with test plates in traffic. The test plate certificate is valid for one (1) year from the date of issue.

Misuse of a test plate certificate could lead to an additional tax of 1000 euros or more. Read the instructions below carefully.

Unregistered or decommissioned vehicles can be driven with test plates for the following reasons **directly related** to the certificate holder's operations:

- 1) tests related to the study and development of the vehicle or its equipment;
- 2) short-term test drives or presentation of the vehicle for sales purposes; and
- 3) other transfers directly related to the vehicle's manufacture, sales, outfitting, repair or inspection.

The above-mentioned uses must be directly related to the operations of the test plate certificate holder, so that

- test plates can be used by the **holder** of the test plate certificate or the **holder's representative** (employee or the equivalent);
- **private persons** can perform a short test drive with a vehicle with test plates without a representative of the test plate holder being present in the vehicle, provided that the driver carries the original test plate certificate and a temporary authorisation (valid for 3 days) issued by the dealership, and **the car tax has been paid**;
- test plates **may not be loaned** to other companies or individuals.

Vehicles banned from traffic due to non-inspection or non-roadworthiness can be driven with test plates for the purpose of transfers required by repairs or inspection.

Temporary use free of car tax (Car Tax Act, section 35)

If the car tax of a vehicle that has not been registered for the first time is unpaid, the vehicle can nevertheless be used with test plates in the presence of the holder of the test plate certificate or the holder's representative, in the following cases:

- the transfer of the vehicle is directly related to testing the certificate holder's vehicle or its equipment for R&D purposes;
- the vehicle is being test driven to ensure its technical performance;
- the vehicle is being used for a short sales demonstration aimed at a buyer who is not a permanent resident of Finland. Please note: The use of vehicles with test plates is not permitted for the purpose of demonstration to a permanent resident of Finland if the car tax is unpaid; or
- the vehicle is being transferred for a reason directly related to its manufacture, sales, outfitting, export, repair or inspection.

Vehicles can be driven with test plates only when all general terms and conditions set forth in these instructions are fulfilled. More detailed instructions regarding the Car Tax Act are available from the tax authority, i.e. Finnish Tax Administration.

Other matters related to the use of test plates

- a) The use of test plates on vehicles with outstanding vehicle or car tax is prohibited.
- b) Vehicle-specific registration number plates must be covered or removed when the vehicle is being driven with test plates.
- c) A valid test plate certificate must always be carried in a vehicle being driven with test plates.
- d) The test plates must be affixed to the parts of the vehicle intended for registration number plates. Test plates may only be affixed to a vehicle of the type specified in the certificate.
- e) Permanently decommissioned vehicles may not be driven with test plates.
- f) There are no specific restrictions regarding the loading of vehicles being driven with test plates, but such use must always correspond to the purpose specified in the Decree on the Registration of Vehicles.
- g) A towing vehicle with test plates can be used to transfer registered or unregistered (test plate/transfer permit) trailers if the towing vehicle and trailer have the same purpose of use in accordance with the Registration Decree. If a vehicle combination is being transferred to a repair shop, the repairs must be the purpose of transfer for both vehicles. For example, it is not permitted to transfer a trailer for the purposes of a sales demonstration if the towing vehicle is being transferred for repair purposes.
- h) The temporary use of test plates is permitted in Sweden, Norway and Denmark.

Consequences of test plate certificate misuse

Traficom can revoke an individual test plate certificate if a vehicle has been used with test plates in violation of regulations or Traficom's instructions, or if the test plate certificate has not been paid. If a test plate certificate has been used in violation of regulations or Traficom's instructions in a recurring or otherwise particularly serious manner, Traficom can revoke all of a holder's test plate certificates.

In case of test plate certificate misuse it will be assessed whether such misuse constitutes use of a vehicle that has been banned from traffic. Test plate certificate misuse can incur an additional tax of EUR 1,000 at a minimum.

Test plate certificate renewal and cancellation

Test plate certificates are automatically renewed annually unless the certificate holder has made a notification of cancellation during the certificate's period of validity, or the certificate has been cancelled by Traficom, or Traficom decides not to renew it for a special reason. A prerequisite for the renewal of a test plate certificate is the payment of the test plate insurance and certificate fee.

If, after the end of their period of validity, the holder no longer wishes to use test plates, the inspection office must be notified that they will no longer be required, at the latest by the second working day after the period of validity has expired. This notification must be made using the expired test plate certificate and the test plates must be returned at the same time, as must any unpaid test plate certificate for the following year.

A separate invoice will be sent for the test plate certificate fee.

Additional information

Finnish Transport and Communications Agency Traficom, test plate certificates
tel. +358 29 534 5000 (switchboard), www.traficom.fi

Finnish Tax Administration (questions related to the Car Tax Act), tel. +358 29 497 152, www.vero.fi