TRAFICOM
Finnish Transport and Communications Agency

Instructions for test plate certificate holders

These instructions are valid from 1 January 2023 onwards 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 test plates could lead to an additional tax of EUR 1,000 or more.

The use of test plates is prohibited if the vehicle has outstanding overdue vehicle taxes.

Read the instructions below carefully.

Unregistered or decommissioned vehicles can be driven with test plates for the following purposes 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
3) other transfers directly related to the vehicle's manufacture, sale, outfitting, repair or inspection.

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

The above-mentioned purposes must be directly related to the operations of the test plate certificate holder, and consequently:

- In addition to the test plate certificate holder, test plates can be used by the **holder's representative** based on employment or commission, for example.
- **A private person** with an intent to purchase a vehicle 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, if the vehicle is subject to car tax, the car tax has been paid.
- Test plates **may not be loaned** to other companies or individuals.

A test plate certificate cannot be used in connection with any transfers, even partial ones, unrelated to the purposes defined in regulations and instructions.

The test plate certificate holder is responsible for ensuring that the driver complies with all the regulations and instructions concerning the use of test plates.

Temporary use free of car tax (Car Tax Act, section 41)

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 following cases, provided that the holder of the test plate certificate or the holder's representative is present inside the vehicle:

- 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. In such cases, a transfer permit is required for demonstration.
- The vehicle is being transferred for a reason directly related to its manufacture, sale, outfitting, export, repair or inspection.

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

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Other matters related to the use of test plates

- The test plates must be affixed to the parts of the vehicle intended for registration number plates. The test plates must cover any vehicle-specific registration number plates affixed to the vehicle.
- Test plates may only be affixed to a vehicle of the type specified in the certificate.
- A valid test plate certificate must always be carried in a vehicle being driven with test plates.
- Permanently decommissioned vehicles may not be driven with test plates.
- There are no specific restrictions regarding the loading of vehicles being driven with test plates, but such use must always correspond to the purposes specified in regulations and instructions.
- 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 and this purpose corresponds to regulations and instructions. 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.
- The temporary use of test plates is permitted in Sweden, Norway and Denmark. Finland does not have an agreement on the approval of temporary registrations with any other countries. If you want to transfer a vehicle with test plates in other countries, you must obtain confirmation on whether test plates can be used from the authorities of the destination country and any other countries passed through.

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. Cases of test plate certificate misuse are assessed to determine whether the 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. The additional tax amount is always the annual vehicle tax multiplied by five. For example, for a diesel-powered passenger car with an annual vehicle tax of EUR 690, the incurred additional tax would be EUR 3,450.

Test plate certificate renewal and cancellation

Test plate certificates are automatically renewed annually, unless the certificate holder has submitted a notification of cancellation during the certificate's period of validity. The certificate holder will be issued a separate invoice for the renewal. A prerequisite for the renewal of a test plate certificate is the payment of the test plate insurance fee.

If the test plate certificate holder no longer wishes to use the test plates, they must submit a notification of cancellation to the inspection office. This notification must be made using the test plate certificate and the test plates must be returned at the same time. If a test plate certificate is cancelled in the middle of its period of validity, the fee will not be returned.

Legislation

- Vehicles Act (82/2021), section 100, subsection2 and section 116
- Car Tax Act (777/2020), section 41

Enquiries

Finnish Transport and Communications Agency Traficom, test plate certificates,
tel. +358 29 534 5100, www.traficom.fi

Finnish Tax Administration (questions related to the Car Tax Act), tel. +358 29 497 150, www.vero.fi