



Automated vehicle trials in Finland

The increasing use of automation in road traffic will be changing operating practices in traffic in many ways, but current legislation already allows the use of automated vehicles in road traffic in Finland.

With an automated vehicle, the vehicle itself does the observing and driving. However, an automated vehicle must also always have a driver as a failsafe. The driver may be in the vehicle itself or operate the vehicle by remote control. One driver may control several automated vehicles at once.

As far as assigning liability goes, the driver is by definition the person who switches on the automation. The driver must always have a right to drive for the type of vehicle in question.

Requirements for a test plate certificate

An enterprise, agency or other organisation engaged in research on automated vehicles may apply to Trafi for a test plate certificate. The certificate entitles the bearer to drive vehicles unregistered or decommissioned in Finland, to a limited extent and on a temporary basis, both in road traffic and off-road.

Such a vehicle must have test plates and be covered by a valid test plate insurance policy.

Certificate validity is one year

The test plate certificate is valid for one year from the date of issue, and it is automatically renewed annually.

Temporary use exempt from car tax

The holder of a test plate certificate for automated vehicle trials may operate a vehicle with test plates in road traffic on a temporary basis without being liable for car tax on that vehicle.

Test plates installed as licence plates

The test plates must be installed in the locations reserved for licence plates on the vehicle.

Revoking a certificate

Trafi may revoke the test plate certificate if the vehicle with test plates is used in an unlawful manner.

Research report

The test plate certificate holder must submit a research report to Trafi once the trials have been completed.



Applying to Trafi for a test plate certificate

Applications for a test plate certificate should be submitted on the form found on the Trafi website at http://www.trafi.fi/en/road/automated_vehicles_trials

Appendices to the application

A Trade Register extract not more than three months old must be appended to the application.

The applicant must also enclose a trial plan, including:

- a general description of the trials
- a research plan
- technical specifications of the test vehicles
- information on the road area where the trials are intended to be conducted
- description of how road safety will be ensured

Read more: www.trafi.fi/en/road/automated_vehicles_trials

Future information: automatedvehicles@trafi.fi

Submitting the application

Submit the application with appendices to:

automatedvehicles@trafi.fi

or

Finnish Transport Safety Agency Trafi
Registration decisions
PO Box 320
FI-00101 HELSINKI

Fees

The test plate certificate costs EUR 300, and the related test plates cost EUR 9 each.



Statutory basis

Vehicle Act, section 66f (1090/2002)

Government Decree on Vehicle Registration, section 32 (893/2007)

Vehicle Tax Act, section 35(1)8 (1482/1994)



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