

IFRS® STANDARDS—APPLICATION AROUND THE WORLD



JURISDICTIONAL PROFILE: **Finland**

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This Profile provides information about the application of IFRS® Accounting Standards (Standards) in Finland. The Standards are developed and issued in the public interest by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB). The IASB is the standard-setting body of the IFRS Foundation (Foundation), an independent, private sector, not-for-profit organisation.

The Foundation has prepared this Profile based on information from various sources. The starting point was the answers provided by standard-setting and other bodies in response to surveys the Foundation conducted on the application of the Standards around the world. The Foundation drafted the profile and invited the respondents to the survey. The Foundation also invited others (including regulators and international audit firms) to review the drafts. Their comments are reflected in this Profile.

The purpose of the Foundation's Jurisdictional Profiles is to illustrate only the extent of implementation of the Standards across the globe. The Profiles do not reflect the intellectual property licensing status of the Standards within any given jurisdiction. The Standards are protected by copyright and are subject to licensing arrangements agreed upon within their jurisdiction. For further information, please contact permissions@ifrs.org.

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RELEVANT JURISDICTIONAL AUTHORITY

Organisation	<p>Ministry of Employment and the Economy.</p> <p>Suomen Tilintarkastajat ry (Finnish Association of Authorised Public Accountants).</p>
Role of the organisation	<p>The Ministry of Employment and the Economy is responsible for accounting legislation and related guidance in Finland. The application of IFRS Standards is stipulated in the IAS Regulation adopted by the European Union and in the Finnish Accounting Act (English).</p> <p>Suomen Tilintarkastajat ry translates IFRS into Finnish based on a contract with one of the freelancers that delivers translations to the EU Commission.</p>
Website	<p>Ministry of Employment and the Economy: www.tem.fi/en/frontpage</p> <p>Finnish Institute of Authorised Public Accountants: www.suomentilintarkastajat.fi (for translations and publications)</p>

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COMMITMENT TO GLOBAL FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARDS

Has the jurisdiction made a public commitment in support of moving towards a single set of high quality global accounting standards?

Yes.

Refer to the IAS Regulation adopted by the European Union in 2002.

Has the jurisdiction made a public commitment towards IFRS Accounting Standards as that single set of high quality global accounting standards?

Yes.

Refer to the IAS Regulation adopted by the European Union in 2002.

What is the jurisdiction's status of adoption?

Finland has already adopted IFRS Standards for the consolidated financial statements of all companies whose securities trade in a regulated market.

Additional comments provided on the adoption status?

As a member state of the European Union, Finland is subject to EU 1606/2002 Regulation on the application of international accounting standards (IAS).

The EU IAS Regulation requires application of IFRS Standards as adopted by the EU for the consolidated financial statements of European companies whose securities trade in a regulated securities market starting in 2005. The EU IAS Regulation gives member states the option to require or permit IFRS Standards as adopted by the EU in separate company financial statements (statutory accounts) and/or in the financial statements of companies whose securities do not trade on a regulated securities market. See the Profile for the European Union for more detailed information about the EU IAS Regulation.

There is one regulated market in Finland -- NASDAQ Helsinki OY.

Finland used the option under the IAS Regulation to:

- Require IFRS Standards as adopted by the EU in the separate financial statements of companies whose securities trade in a regulated market but that do not prepare consolidated financial statements because they have no subsidiaries.
- Permit optional application of IFRS Standards as adopted by the EU for the separate company financial statements of other companies whose securities trade in a regulated market other than insurance companies.
- Permit optional application of IFRS Standards as adopted by the EU for both the consolidated and separate company financial statements of companies whose securities do not trade in a regulated market other than insurance companies, provided that such companies have an independent audit.

If the jurisdiction has NOT made a public statement supporting the move towards a single set of accounting standards and/or towards IFRS Accounting Standards as that set of standards, explain the jurisdiction's general position towards the adoption of IFRS Accounting Standards in the jurisdiction.

Not applicable.

EXTENT OF IFRS APPLICATION

For DOMESTIC companies whose debt or equity securities trade in a public market in the jurisdiction:

Are all or some domestic companies whose securities trade in a public market either required or permitted to use IFRS Accounting Standards in their consolidated financial statements?

Yes.

If YES, are IFRS Accounting Standards REQUIRED or PERMITTED?

In accordance with the EU Accounting Regulation, IFRS Standards as adopted by the EU are required for the consolidated financial statements of all European companies whose debt or equity securities trade in a regulated market in Finland.

Does that apply to ALL domestic companies whose securities trade in a public market, or only SOME? If some, which ones?

All.

Are IFRS Accounting Standards also required or permitted for more than the consolidated financial statements of companies whose securities trade in a public market?

Yes.

For instance, are IFRS Accounting Standards required or permitted in separate company financial statements of companies whose securities trade in a public market?

Permitted, other than for insurance companies.

For instance, are IFRS Accounting Standards required or permitted for companies whose securities do not trade in a public market?

Permitted in both the consolidated and separate financial statements of all companies whose securities do not trade in a public market other than insurance companies, provided that they have an independent audit.

If the jurisdiction currently does NOT require or permit the use of IFRS Accounting Standards for domestic companies whose securities trade in a public market, are there any plans to permit or require IFRS Accounting Standards for such companies in the future?

Not applicable.

For FOREIGN companies whose debt or equity securities trade in a public market in the jurisdiction:

Are all or some foreign companies whose securities trade in a public market either REQUIRED or PERMITTED to use IFRS Accounting Standards in their consolidated financial statements?

Yes.

If YES, are IFRS Accounting Standards REQUIRED or PERMITTED in such cases?

Required for some and permitted for others. Foreign companies whose securities trade in a regulated market in Finland (and generally in the EU) are required to report under IFRS Standards as adopted by the EU for their consolidated financial statements unless the European Commission has deemed their local accounting standards to be equivalent to IFRS Standards, in which case they may use their local standards. This is laid out on the 'Financial Reporting' page of the European Commission's website.

Does that apply to ALL foreign companies whose securities trade in a public market, or only SOME? If some, which ones?

All.

IFRS ENDORSEMENT

Which IFRS Accounting Standards are required or permitted for domestic companies?

IFRS Standards as adopted by the European Union, which are IFRS Standards as issued by the IASB Board with some limited modifications such as the temporary 'carve-out' from IAS 39. However, the resulting financial statements of the majority of companies can still be in full compliance with IFRS Standards.

The auditor's report and/or the basis of presentation footnote states that financial statements have been prepared in conformity with:

IFRS Standards as adopted by the European Union.

Does the auditor's report and/or the basis of preparation footnote allow for 'dual reporting' (conformity with both IFRS Accounting Standards and the jurisdiction's GAAP)?

Yes.

Are IFRS Accounting Standards incorporated into law or regulations?

Yes.

If yes, how does that process work?

The process is described in the IFRS jurisdiction profile of the European Union.

If no, how do IFRS Accounting Standards become a requirement in the jurisdiction?

Not applicable.

Does the jurisdiction have a formal process for the 'endorsement' or 'adoption' of new or amended IFRS Accounting Standards (including Interpretations) in place?

Yes.

If yes, what is the process?

The process is described in the IFRS jurisdiction profile of the European Union.

If no, how do new or amended IFRS Accounting Standards become a requirement in the jurisdiction?

Not applicable.

Has the jurisdiction eliminated any accounting policy options permitted by IFRS Accounting Standards and/or made any modifications to any IFRS Accounting Standards?

Yes.

If yes, what are the changes?

Details are described in the IFRS jurisdiction profile of the European Union.

Other comments regarding the use of IFRS Accounting Standards in the jurisdiction?

None.

TRANSLATION OF IFRS ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

Are IFRS Accounting Standards translated into the local language?

Yes.

The European Union has 24 official and working languages. They are: Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Irish, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Maltese, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovak, Slovene, Spanish and Swedish. Before they are published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*, and therefore become binding under EU law, individual IFRS Standards must be translated into all of those languages (other than English and Irish).

If they are translated, what is the translation process? In particular, does this process ensure an ongoing translation of the latest updates to IFRS Accounting Standards?

Pursuant to a copyright waiver agreement with the Directorate-General for Translation of the European Commission, the Commission takes care of the translation into the official languages according to their own translation process. The translation only covers the standards and mandatory guidance, which is then published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

In addition, some countries (usually the standard setter or institute) have a translation contract with the IFRS Foundation to produce an 'official translation' for publication of a bound volume of IFRS Standards (usually the 'Red Book') and publication, in some cases, of individual standards and exposure drafts.

The Finnish Association of Authorised Public Accountants translates IFRS Standards based on a contract with one of the freelancers that provide translations to the Commission, and arranges a review by experts. Suomen Tilintarkastajat ry and ST-Akatemia publish a bound volume ('Blue Book') based on a contract with IFRS Foundation.

APPLICATION OF THE IFRS FOR SMEs ACCOUNTING STANDARD

Has the jurisdiction adopted the *IFRS for SMEs* Accounting Standard for at least some SMEs?

No.

If no, is the adoption of the *IFRS for SMEs* Accounting Standard under consideration?

No.

Did the jurisdiction make any modifications to the *IFRS for SMEs* Accounting Standard?

Not applicable.

If the jurisdiction has made any modifications, what are those modifications?

Not applicable.

Which SMEs use the *IFRS for SMEs* Accounting Standard in the jurisdiction, and are they required or permitted to do so?

Not applicable.

For those SMEs that are not required to use the *IFRS for SMEs* Accounting Standard, what other accounting framework do they use?

SMEs are permitted to use IFRS Standards as adopted by the EU, provided that they have an independent audit. Alternatively they must follow Finnish national standards.

Other comments regarding use of the *IFRS for SMEs* Accounting Standard?

None.