

# Mobility: Immigration alert

April 2023



## Brazil

### New visa-free policy for seafarers

#### Executive summary

Effective 1 May 2023, crew members of international (i.e., non-Brazilian) vessels will no longer be allowed to enter Brazil using a Seafarers' Identity Document issued pursuant to Convention 108 of the International Labour Organization (SID C-108). They will only be allowed to enter using a SID issued pursuant to Convention 185 (SID C-185).

#### Background

Member States of the ILO ratified Convention 108 in 1958, introducing the concept of a universal identification system for seafarers and the first Seafarers' Identity Document, SID C-108. In June 2003, ILO Member States ratified Convention 185, which introduced Seafarers' Identity Document SID C-185. Holders of SID C-108 and SID C-185 may be admissible to ILO Member States without a visa.

In December 2020, Brazil introduced a concession for SID C-108 holders working on non-Brazilian vessels, which allows them to enter the country without a visa for up to 180 days in any migratory year (i.e., a 2-month period starting from the individual's date of first entry into the country).

#### Key developments

Effective 1 May 2023, the following changes will go into effect:

- SID C-108 holders who are not otherwise visa-exempt based on their nationality may no longer enter Brazil without first obtaining a Brazilian visa.

- SID C-185 holders will be able to enter Brazil without a visa for up to:
  - 90 days in a migratory year (starting from the date of their first entry) when working on non-Brazilian maritime support ships and/or platforms
  - 180 days in a migratory year (starting from the date of their first entry) when working on non-Brazilian long-trip ships and/or cruises

To be eligible for these visa exemptions, individuals must hold a SID C-185 issued by their country of citizenship or residence. Holders of SID C-185 issued by their vessel's flag state (i.e., the country where the vessel is registered), or who seek to remain in Brazil beyond the permitted 90- or 180-day period, will not be eligible for the exemption.

Foreign nationals who are working on a Brazilian vessel will be required to obtain a Temporary Visa, regardless of whether they hold a SID C-185 and the duration for which they remain in Brazil.

#### Impact on employers

Employers that hire impacted maritime professionals may ensure that these individuals hold the appropriate SID C-185 to mitigate potential issues with their entry into Brazil.

## Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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