

# Brazil Relocation Guide



By Appointment To  
Her Majesty The Queen  
Removals and Storage Contractor Abels

# ABELS™

THE ART OF MOVING

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<b>TELEPHONE:</b>	Country Code (0055) + Area code.
<b>STANDARD TIME:</b>	Mainly GMT – 2 but there are difference time Zones in some areas, and also some areas have Daylight saving.
<b>WEIGHTS &amp; MEASURES:</b>	Metric.
<b>ELECTRICITY:</b>	110, 220/127v, 60Hz, single phase.
<b>INOCULATIONS/VACCINATIONS:</b>	Recommended Typhoid, Hepatitis, and Yellow Fever.
<b>PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:</b>	New Years Day – January 1st, Ash Wednesday plus the Monday and Tuesday previous, Ponto Facultativo – not official holiday but most Companies allow these days for Carnival, Good Friday – the Friday before Easter Sunday, Tiradentes Day – April 21st, Labour Day – May 1st, Corpus Christi – second Thursday, Lady of Aparecida – October 12th, All Saints Day – November 1st, All Souls Day – November 2nd, Republic Day – November 13th, Black Consciousness Day – November 20th, Christmas Day – December 25th.
<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>	Varies between 08.00 hours and 18.00 hours and Some Saturdays for 4 hours. Normally a 44 hour week.
<b>BANK HOURS:</b>	10.00 hours - 16.00 hours Mon-Fri.
<b>EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS:</b>	Ambulance 192, Fire 193, Police 194.
<b>BRITISH EMBASSY:</b>	Quadra 801 – Conjunto K - Lote 08 Avenida das Nacoes Brazilia, DF, 70408-900 Tel (55) 61 3329-2300
<b>BRAZILIAN EMBASSY IN LONDON:</b>	14-16 Cockspur Street St James's, London SW1Y 5BL Tel: 0207 747 4500



## Part 1 – Background Information on Federative Republic of Brazil

### Background

Following more than three centuries under Portuguese rule, Brazil gained its independence in 1822, maintaining a monarchical system of government until the abolition of slavery in 1888 and the subsequent proclamation of a republic by the military in 1889. Brazilian coffee exporters politically dominated the country until populist leader Getulio VARGAS rose to power in 1930. By far the largest and most populous country in South America, Brazil underwent more than a half century of populist and military government until 1985, when the military regime peacefully ceded power to civilian rulers. Brazil continues to pursue industrial and agricultural growth and development of its interior. Having successfully weathered a period of global financial difficulty in the late 20th century, Brazil was seen as one of the world's strongest emerging markets and a contributor to global growth. The awarding of the 2014 FIFA World Cup and 2016 Summer Olympic Games, the first ever to be held in South America, was seen as symbolic of the country's rise. However, since about 2013, Brazil has been plagued by a shrinking economy, growing unemployment, and rising inflation. Political scandal resulted in the impeachment of President Dilma ROUSSEFF in May 2016, a conviction that was upheld by the Senate in August 2016; her vice president, Michel TEMER, will serve as president until 2018, completing her second term.

### Geography

Federative Republic of Brazil situated in eastern South America, covers almost half of the continent making it the world's fifth largest country, it borders ten countries and the Atlantic Ocean. The northwest contains the vast basin of the Amazon, the centre west is largely a vast plateau of Savanna and rock escarpments. Northwest is mostly semi-arid plateaus, while to the east and south are rugged mountains, fertile valleys and narrow fertile coastal plains.

### Environmental Issues

Deforestation in the Amazon Basin destroys the habitat and endangers a multitude of plant and animal species indigenous to the area. There is a lucrative illegal wildlife trade. There is air and water pollution in Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo and several other large cities. Land degradation and water pollution mainly caused by improper mining activities. There is also wetland degradation caused by severe oil spills.

### Climate

The Amazon basin is hot, humid and wet; the rest of Brazil is cooler and drier, with seasonal variations. The northeast is drought-prone.

### Population

As of January 2018 the population of Brazil is almost 208 million.

### Economy

Brazil is the eighth-largest economy in the world, but is recovering from a recession in 2015 and 2016 that ranks as the worst in the country's history. Falling commodity prices reduced export revenues and investment, which weakened the Brazilian real and cut tax revenues. The weaker real made existing public debt, which was largely denominated in foreign currency, more expensive. Lower tax revenues strained the government budget.

Economic reforms proposed in 2016 aim to slow the growth of government spending and reduce barriers to foreign investment. Government spending growth helped to push public debt to 70% of GDP at the end of 2016 up from 50% in 2012. Policies to strengthen Brazil's workforce and industrial sector, such as local content requirements, may have boosted employment at the expense of investment.

Former President Dilma ROUSSEFF was impeached and convicted in August 2016 for moving funds among government budgets; the economy has also been affected by multiple corruption scandals involving private companies and government officials. Sanctions against the firms involved — some of the largest in Brazil — has limited their business opportunities, producing a ripple effect on associated businesses and contractors. In addition, investment in these companies has declined because of the scandals.

Brazil is a member of the Common Market of the South (Mercosur), a trade bloc including Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Venezuela. After the Asian and Russian financial crises, Mercosur adopted a protectionist stance to guard against exposure to the volatility of foreign markets. Brazil and its Mercosur partners have pledged to open the bloc to more trade and investment, but changes require approval of all five members, which makes policy adjustments too difficult to enact.

### **Education**

Education in Brazil is free and compulsory for children from the age of 6 to 14.

There are generally two kinds of private schools in Brazil: Brazilian private schools and International schools. Brazilian private schools teach the Brazilian curriculum with an aim to educate the children to a level consistent with passing the vestibular exam for entry into university. International schools tend to educate to standards such as GCSE (UK), PSAT (USA) and International Baccalaureate.

### **Health**

Healthcare in Brazil is delivered by public and private providers. The public system, known as SUS, is responsible for delivering free healthcare to the whole population (approximately 209 million). The Brazilian private insurance sector is also representative, covering approximately 23 percent of the population, usually the most affluent.

Brazil provides free public health care to its citizens. The government offers the Unified Healthcare System, which offers a wide range of free health care that Brazilian citizens can access without registration. Foreign and local residents can also access the healthcare service.

Expats are advised to sign up for private health insurance plans to avoid the risk of having to rely on public medical treatment, especially in emergency cases. Over the last few decades, the increase in the number of expats in Brazil has indirectly led to an increase in the number of private health insurance providers in the country.

### **Language**

The only official language in Brazil is Portuguese.

### **Currency**

The unit of currency is the Real (R\$) divided into 100 centavos. The following denominations are in circulation:

- Notes: R\$2, 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100
- Coins: 1c, 5c, 10c, 25c, 50c and R\$1

### **Religion**

The main religion in Brazil is Christianity, and around 90% of the population is either Catholic (65%) or Protestant (22%).

## **Part 2 – Brazil Import Customs Regulations**

**To the best of our knowledge, the following documentation is required to import household goods and personal effects into Brazil.**

You must have arrived in Brazil at the time of Customs clearance, and you must keep a copy of your arrival airline ticket, boarding pass and luggage ticket for presentation to the Customs Authority. Your household and personal effects must arrive within 180 days of your own arrival in Brazil. Both new and used personal and household goods can be imported duty free. New items must be declared as new on your inventory.

### **Immigrants with Temporary Visa (Work Visa) which must be for no less than one year**

Temporary visa must be obtained before arrival in Brazil.



Visa must be valid for at least 180 days.

You must register with the Federal Police Department before customs clearance

### **Other Documentation required**

- Notarised copy of the Brazilian tax card (CPF) or internet extract showing CPF number
- Notarised copy of passport all pages
- Notarised copy of the Brazilian identification card or protocol (RNE)
- Copy of SINRE – means National system of registration of foreigners
- Notarised power of attorney, authorising our agent to represent you with regard to clearance (we arrange for you to receive the necessary form)
- Notarised copy of proof of residence in Brazil
- Notarised detailed inventory list in DSI form, in Portuguese and valued in US Dollars (we will arrange through our agent for you to receive this form). **Please note:** for all electrical, mechanical or optical appliances, you will need to furnish the brand, model and serial number.

For Temporary Visa (work visa). Duties are suspended for the same period as validity of the Visa. New articles are admitted given that duties are suspended but all articles brought into the country must be re-exported before the visa expires, otherwise duties and fines are imposed.

Foreign nationals with temporary visa must sign a re-export guarantee. This guarantee will cover the amount of duties at 50% to 80% of the declared inventory value.

### **Persons with Permanent Visa (first entry)**

The Permanent visa has to be obtained before arrival in Brazil.

You must register with the Federal Police Department before customs clearance.

### **Other Documentation required**

As per Temporary Visa (Work Visa).

### **Returning Citizens – Brazilian and Permanent Visa Holder returning (after 1 year abroad)**

#### **Documentation Required**

Same as Permanent Visa holder mentioned above.

#### **Diplomatic Removals**

- Passport stamped by Consulate or Embassy
- Notarised copy of the Brazilian tax card (CPF)
- Notarised or stamped at Embassy/Consulate copies of Brazilian ID issued by MRE
- Original of Merchant Marine letter (AFRMM) on Embassy/Consulate letterhead (sample will be provided)
- Stamped at Embassy/Consulate copies of Brazilian ID issued by MRE from the person who signed the Merchant Marine letter (AFRMM)
- Diplomatic franchise (DSI) and supplemental pages, with the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs approval and also stamped by Consulate or Embassy
- Notarised power of attorney, authorising our agent to represent you with regard to clearance (we arrange for you to receive the necessary form)
- Franchise will be granted only against presentation of the Bill of Lading (which we present). Document of franchise will be issued by Itamaraty or Minister of Affairs.



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### **General Information regarding Customs clearance**

The clearance procedure must be started within 45 days of the shipments arrival. After 45 days without the customs process having been started, customs have the right to seize the shipment.

Shipments must originate from the same Country of the owner's nationality or where he was living at the time of shipment.

For returning Brazilians, a certificate of residence abroad for a minimum one year must be obtained at the Brazilian Consulate at origin country (to avoid taxes).

**Please note:** port and airport charges (including port storage etc.) in Brazil are extremely high and will be incurred.

Port and airport taxes, depend on value of the shipment, the shipping line, as well as on time taken by customs to clear the shipment.

Taking into consideration the above, it is necessary to have all documentation requested without unnecessary delay.

### **Inheritance**

Each individual case can be different. Please ask and we will submit your circumstances for advice.

### **Presents, Souvenirs**

Duty free entry if part of the household effects.

No restriction as long as not for commercial purposes and is in reasonable quantities. The purchase invoice copy may be required by Customs authorities.

### **Works of Art, Antiques**

Duty free entry if part of the household effects.

No restriction as long as not for commercial purposes and is in reasonable quantities. The purchase invoice copy may be required by Customs authorities.

### **Precious metal objects (jewellery, coins)**

Duty free entry if part of the household effects.

Must be strictly for personal use.

### **Motor vehicles including motorcycles and other vehicles**

Prohibited except for Foreign Diplomats – a list of documentation required can be supplied.

### **Boats**

Prohibited, subject to confiscation.

### **Machines, appliances, spare parts**

Only allowed if required for exercise or shippers' profession, please provide specification and circumstance and we will seek advice.

### **Alcoholic beverages**

Part of household goods and must be listed on the shippers' inventory. Failure to declare may cause confiscation and fines.

Duty free entry. Normally subject to the limit of 12 litres. Depending on the customs district / customs agent there could be duties charged.

### **Plants**

Prohibited. Subject to confiscation.



### **Arms, ammunition, dangerous objects**

Subject to consultation with the Brazilian Army prior to departure from country of origin.

Small caliber only, for personal use, hunting rifles. No dangerous objects allowed. Guns and ammunitions will be retained until inspection by the army officials.

### **Medicines, narcotics, drugs**

Small quantities of non-prescription medicines or prescription medicines with doctors' prescription may be imported. Narcotics and drugs are not allowed.

### **Food**

Prohibited. Subject to confiscation.

### **Prohibited Articles**

- Handguns and ammunition must be in a list with a visa from the Consulate. These must be registered at the Brazilian Army before their release by the Customs. **Please note:** you cannot include with your household effects.
- Toys, replicas and imitations of firearms that may be confused with these, unless it is to integrate collection of authorised user, as specified in the Brazilian Army Command.
- Swords, machetes
- Plant, sand or vegetal origin products
- Vessels of all kinds, boats, inflatable boats, kayaks, paddle boats, jet skis, and similar and boat engines.
- Ride on lawn tractors, lawn mower and gas trimmers
- Model aeroplanes
- Flammable or corrosive materials
- Compressed gases or combustible liquids
- Gas grills or propane tanks
- Building materials
- Jewellery, currency or valuable articles
- Drugs and medicines (unless there is a doctor's prescription)
- Engines and vehicles (unless in the case of diplomatic shipments)
- High value coins or stamp collections
- Tobacco
- Wines and alcoholic beverages

### **Pets**

Please see further information for relocating your pets to Brazil

<http://www.agricultura.gov.br/assuntos/sanidade-animal-e-vegetal/saude-animal/transito-animal/arquivos-transito-internacional/PetImportHowtobringyourdogorcattoBrazilEnglish.pdf>

### **Fumigation of imported wooden crates (wooden packaging)**

The Brazilian Government adopted ISPM-15 (International standards for Phytosanitary Measures Publication 15) Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging Material in International Trade (aka NIFM-15) to standardise the treatment of wood packing materials used for the transport of goods.



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Shipments into or out of the country in wooden packaging, need to have a seal, certifying that these have received the required treatment (HT= Heated Treatment – a minimum wood core temperature of 56°C for a minimum of 30 minutes, or fumigation with Methyl Bromide (MT).

The wood packing material must be marked in a visible location on each article, on at least two opposite sides of the article with a legible and permanent mark in black ink. Labels and adhesives are not allowed.

The approved format should be country code, the producer number, the treatment type and the inspection agency logo.

If a shipment arrives without this seal, it will be returned to the origin country with obviously high additional costs to be paid.

### **Endangered Species**

A CITES certificate is normally required. There is a worldwide ban on the movement of Ivory without a CITES Certificate. **Please note old pianos usually have ivory keys and a CITES certification will be required.**

For information on obtaining a CITES certificate please visit:-

<http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/endangered-species-application-for-import-and-export-permit>

*Although every care is taken to ensure that all information in the Abels Relocation Guide is accurate and up to date Abels cannot accept liability for any inaccuracy.*