



Picture 2: Facing and biodata pages of a TD3-size specimen of ILO C185 SID in booklet format. Source: ILO/ICAO

2. Heightened immigration controls

Until recently, the immigration authority (Federal Police) continued to accept SIDs issued under the ILO C108 Convention to allow shore leave, transit and transfer of seafarers, even though only the C185 is legally in force in Brazil.

However, triggered by a new regulatory amendment by the National Immigration Council (CNIg), effective from October 2020⁵, the Federal Police adopted a rigorous approach to seafarers' documents. They reiterated that to enter, transit in or leave Brazil foreign seafarers working as crewmembers aboard cargo vessels, cruise ships or platforms in Brazilian jurisdictional waters will need:

a) When holding a valid C185 SID:

- Temporary Work Visa type 'V' (VITEM V)⁶ for stays exceeding 180 days aboard foreign ships or platforms⁷
- VITEM V visa for working onboard Brazilian-flagged ships or platforms, regardless of the term of employment⁸

⁵ Normative Resolution 06 of 2017, (RN 06/2017), was amended by RN CNIg MJSP n° 43 of July 2020, which entered into force in October 2020

⁶ Work visas (VITEM V) are subject to prior approval by the Brazilian Ministry of Justice and Public Security (MJSP). The process is initiated in Brazil, by the sponsoring company (on behalf of the applicant). Once concluded and approved, the MJSP transmits the authorisation to the Consulate and it is only then that the applicant can lodge the visa application itself

⁷ Art. 29, § 7, I, of Decree 9,199/2017

⁸ Art. 29, § 7, II, 'a', of Decree 9,199/2017

b) When NOT holding a valid C185 SID:

- Visitor Business Visa (VIVIS) for stays up to 90 days per migratory year, non-extendable⁹
- VITEM V visa for working onboard Brazilian-flagged ships or platforms, regardless of the term of employment
- VITEM V visa for stays exceeding 180 days aboard foreign cargo vessels and cruise ships¹⁰
- VITEM V visa for stays exceeding 90 days per year on platforms and aboard vessels other than cargo and cruise ships¹¹

The list of countries whose seafarers without a C185 SID need a visa to enter Brazil can be found on the website of the [Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#).

c) No visa will be required from:

- ◆ Crewmembers and other foreign shipboard professionals whose nationality exempts them from a VIVIS visa, for stays of up to 90 days per migratory year, when producing a passport valid for the duration of the stay
- ◆ Crewmembers holding a valid C185 SID, for a maximum stay of 180 days per migratory year, provided they enter the country on a vessel or demonstrate that the purpose of entry is to embark on a platform, a cargo vessel on an ocean-going voyage or a cruise ship sailing along the coast

Foreign seafarers carrying a SID not in conformity with ILO C185 standards may remain on board the vessel, but may not come ashore, at the discretion of the Federal Police¹².

Breach of the immigration regulations may subject the traveller or carrier to pecuniary fines¹³.

For detailed information, please consult our publication [Immigration Controls on Seafarers in Brazil](#), available for free download on our secure website.

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⁹ Art. 29, § 7, II, of Decree 9,199/2017

¹⁰ Art. 38, § 2, VII, 'a', of Decree 9,199/2017

¹¹ Art. 38, § 2, VII, 'b', of Decree 9,199/2017

¹² Art. 173 Decree 9,199/2017

¹³ Fines for offences to the Immigration rules range from BRL 100 to BRL 10 thousand for individuals, and from BRL 1,000 to BRL 1 million for legal persons (Art. 108 of the Migration Law)