



# GMS Flash Alert

## Immigration Edition

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# Brazil – Government Suspends Issuance of Passports

The Federal Police announced on June 27, 2017, a suspension of the issuance of Brazilian passports due to “insufficient budget.”<sup>1</sup> While online scheduling and customer service are maintained, new international travel documents will only be issued/delivered once the budget situation has been resolved.

## WHY THIS MATTERS

Brazilian citizens may not obtain Brazilian passports unless they are experiencing an emergency situation. The suspension of passport issuance may make matters difficult for Brazilians and prevent travel for purposes of business or pleasure if their passport is in need of renewal or they require a new passport.

## Key Measures in the Law

The Federal Police has announced that it has suspended the issuance of new passport “passbooks” which have been requested since June 27, 10:00 p.m. (local time (BRT), GMT -3).

This step is being undertaken due to insufficient budgetary funds for migration control activities and the issuance of travel documents.

Online service scheduling and customer service at Federal Police stations will continue to function normally. However, until the budgetary situation is resolved, there is no provision for the delivery of passports that may be requested.

Customers that had been served at the issuance points by June 27, will receive their passports as per normal.

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## KPMG NOTE

The Federal Police is closely monitoring the situation with the federal government.

The only cases in which passports will be issued is where there is an emergency, which basically means for situations that urgently require travel documents and waiting for the normal period of preparation and delivery of the passport is not a viable option – e.g., in emergencies related to health, work or natural disasters, etc. When considering if a situation is an emergency, passports for purposes of pleasure travel or tourism do not qualify.

Affected employees and employers should consult with their qualified immigration counsel to determine appropriate next steps.

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## FOOTNOTE:

1 See the *Portal da Polícia Federal* website at: <http://www.pf.gov.br/servicos-pf/passaporte> .

## Contact us

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*\* Please note that the KPMG International member firm in the United States does not offer immigration services. However, KPMG Law LLP in Canada can assist clients with U.S. immigration matters.*

**The information contained in this newsletter was submitted by the KPMG International member firm in Brazil.**

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