

What is an Apostille?

An Apostille is a certificate of authenticity issued by countries that are signatories to the Hague Convention, which is placed in a public document to certify its origin (signature, public agent's position, institution's seal or stamp). This apostilled public document will be presented in another country, also signatory to the Hague Convention, since the Apostille is valid only between signatory countries.

What is the Hague Convention?

Also known as the Apostille Convention, it is an International Treaty established in October 1961, which aims to simplify the process of authenticating documents that will be presented abroad. It was enacted by Brazil recently and entered into force on August 16, 2016. Its purpose is to facilitate the process; instead of going through an entire chain of legalization, citizens of the signatory countries must resort to a single procedure, of obtaining the Apostille.

How does the apostille work in practice? How should I proceed both for obtaining an apostille and for recognizing an apostilled document abroad?

In order for a document to receive the Apostille certificate, it is sufficient to take it to one of the registry or notary offices of any Brazilian capital. The apostille covers a physical and an electronic pathway. The first will be issued with the document, and pasted or attached to it. The second is registered in its own system and will be used both for the control of Brazilian authorities and consultation of foreign authorities on the Apostilles issued in Brazil.