Recent changes regulate the new immigration law in Brazil

Executive summary
On March 18, 2019, Brazil’s government published Decree No. 9,731, which establishes that citizens from Australia, Canada, the United States and Japan no longer need visitor visas to enter Brazil beginning on June 17, 2019.

Background
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs issues visitor visas, which allow individuals to enter, leave, stopover and remain in Brazil, for purposes of tourism, business, artistic or sporting activities or when it is in Brazil’s interest (e.g., diplomats). The visitor visa allows individuals to stay in Brazil for up to 90 days. The visitor visa is renewable for an additional 90 days. The total length of a stay must not exceed 180 days over a 12-month period, counted from the date of the first entry into Brazil.

Decree
The Decree is effective June 17, 2019. Immigrants who are nationals of Australia, Canada, the United States and Japan and intend to go to Brazil before that date must apply for a visa by visiting a Consular Office or electronically through the VFS Global page at: https://www.vfsglobal.com/en/governments/index.html

Next steps
Business travellers should be aware that a temporary work visa is required to: (1) provide professional training or technical assistance; (2) engage in the transfer of technology, installation, maintenance and/or repairs of equipment; or (3) engage in any professional activities resulting in remuneration. Performing such activities without a temporary work visa is unlawful, and transgressors are subject to heavy financial penalties, detainment and deportation.

Travel prior to June 17, 2019 will still require a visa (electronic or paper). If arrival into Brazil is after June 17, 2019, a visa will not be required, up to a 90-day stay.
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ey.com

Renata Porto
Tel:  +55 11 2573 4485
Email:  Renata.porto@br.ey.com

Filipe Andrade
Tel:  + 55 11 2573 3777
Email:  filipe.andrade@br.ey.com

Carolina Jucá
Tel:  + 55 11 2573 6074
Email:  carolina.juca@br.ey.com