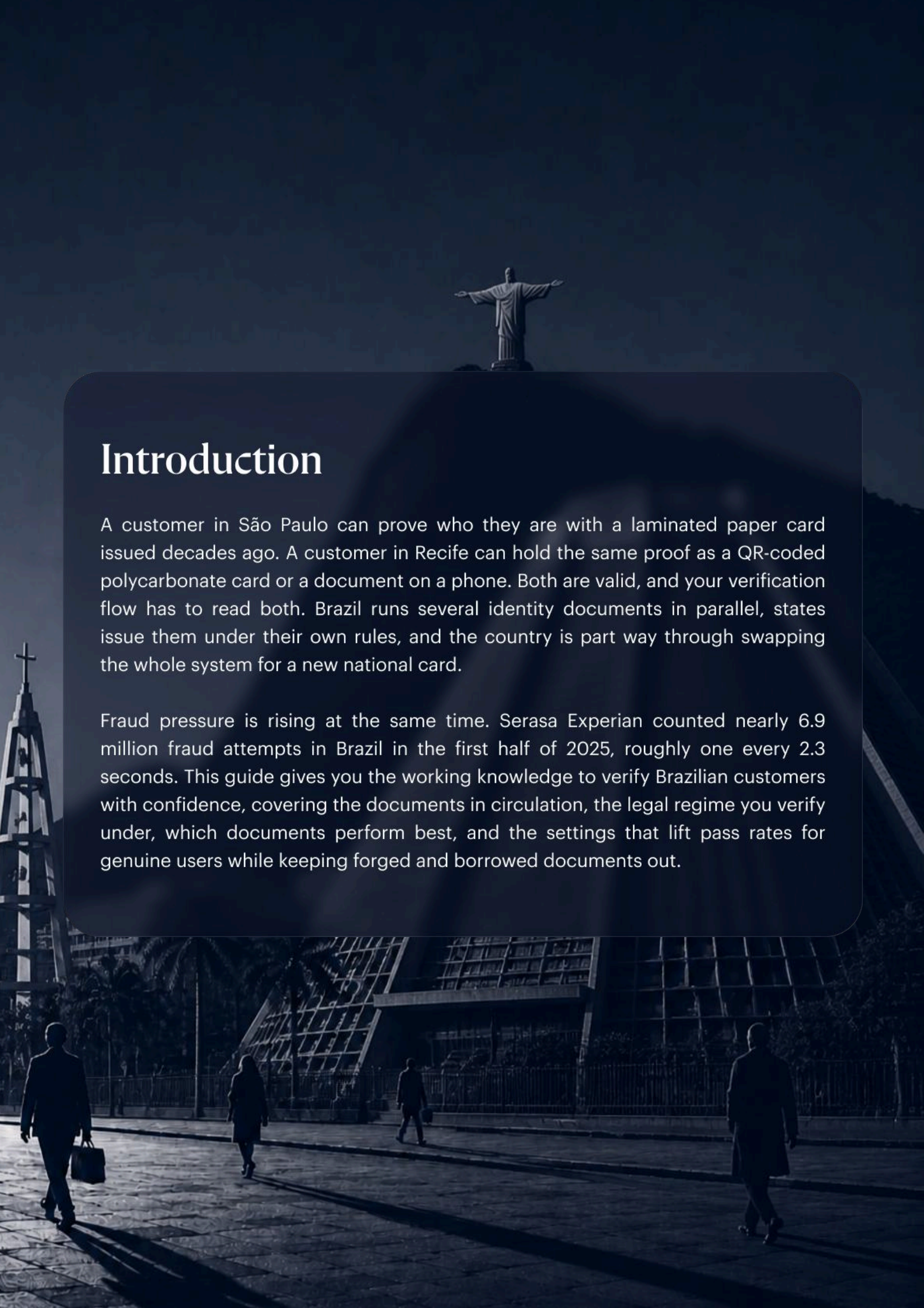


A Merchant's Guide to Identity Verification in BRAZIL

✓ Identity Verified

Real-Time Checks



Introduction

A customer in São Paulo can prove who they are with a laminated paper card issued decades ago. A customer in Recife can hold the same proof as a QR-coded polycarbonate card or a document on a phone. Both are valid, and your verification flow has to read both. Brazil runs several identity documents in parallel, states issue them under their own rules, and the country is part way through swapping the whole system for a new national card.

Fraud pressure is rising at the same time. Serasa Experian counted nearly 6.9 million fraud attempts in Brazil in the first half of 2025, roughly one every 2.3 seconds. This guide gives you the working knowledge to verify Brazilian customers with confidence, covering the documents in circulation, the legal regime you verify under, which documents perform best, and the settings that lift pass rates for genuine users while keeping forged and borrowed documents out.

Understanding the Challenges of Brazil's Identity Documents

Six traits of Brazilian documents that decide whether your automated checks read them or reject them. Reliable verification in Brazil starts with the documents themselves. They span three generations of formats, several issuing authorities, and one language with plenty of regional colour. The six challenges below cause most failed reads and false rejections.

1 | Linguistic Diversity

Portuguese is the language on every Brazilian identity document. Names and field labels carry diacritics such as ã, ç, é, and ô, and an OCR engine that drops or mangles these marks will mismatch the very fields it is supposed to confirm. Regional terms sometimes appear on older, locally issued documents, so verification software needs training on how each state labels the same field.



2 | Multiple Identity Document Formats



Brazilians prove identity with several documents that serve different purposes. The RG identity card, the CPF taxpayer number, the CNH driver's licence, and the passport all circulate side by side, and merchants often need to match two of them, the RG for the photo and the CPF number for the tax record. Until recently each state issued the RG through its own civil identification institute, so one person could legally hold a different RG number in each state. The new national card fixes this by using the CPF as the single number, but the old cards stay in circulation for years yet.

3 | Size Variations

Documents come in shapes automated capture does not expect. Older RG cards are laminated paper in a larger format than the standard card sizes capture software is tuned for, and layouts shift between issuing states, moving the same field to different positions. A capture flow tuned only to standard card dimensions will misframe these documents, and misframed captures fail extraction. As a rough guide, the old laminated RG runs about 105 × 75 mm, well above the 85.6 × 54 mm ID-1 card size most capture tools expect, so a fixed-size frame crops or misreads it.

4 | Understanding Brazil's Naming Structure

Brazilian names usually include a first name, one or more middle names, and both the maternal and paternal surname, for example Maria da Silva Oliveira. Particles such as da, de, and dos are part of the surname, not filler. Name matching that truncates long names or strips particles will flag genuine customers as mismatches, especially when the same person's name is abbreviated differently across the RG, the CPF record, and the CNH.

5 | Handwritten and Aged Documents

Many RG cards in circulation were issued decades ago, and old ones carry handwritten entries, typewriter print, and heavy wear under lamination. These cards generally remain legally valid regardless of age, so a thirty year old document is still a real proof of identity. Your checks need to read faded, low-contrast, and partly handwritten text without rejecting the genuine holder.

6 | A System in Transition

Brazil is in the middle of the largest identity overhaul in its history. The Carteira de Identidade Nacional (CIN) uses the CPF as its single national number and comes in physical and digital form with a QR code and a passport-style machine readable zone. The Receita Federal reported that issuance passed the 50 million mark in April 2026, and the federal government has said it wants 100 million holders by the end of 2026. Old RG cards remain valid until 2032, so for the next several years your flow must accept both the old state formats and the new national card.

A Merchant's Guide to Identity Verification in Brazil

The legal regime you verify under, the documents you can accept, and how each one performs.

Identity verification in Brazil sits under the Lei Geral de Proteção de Dados (LGPD), Law No. 13,709 of 2018, which governs how you collect, process, and store the personal data a verification check touches. The Autoridade Nacional de Proteção de Dados (ANPD) supervises the law and now operates as an autonomous regulator with the power to fine. Anti money laundering duties come from Law No. 9,613 of 1998, with COAF acting as Brazil's financial intelligence unit, and regulated firms must run KYC checks that stand up to both regimes. Mistakes are expensive on two fronts, regulatory penalties on one side and rejected genuine customers on the other.

Compliance and conversion are the same problem in practice. A flow that asks for the wrong documents or stalls at capture loses customers mid-signup, so a compliant check that still passes genuine users first time protects both your regulatory standing and your completion rate.

1 | Verification Modes

Shufti supports two verification modes, and the right choice depends on who collects the proofs.

ONSITE VERIFICATION

The end user completes verification inside your flow through Shufti's iFrame or Verify component. The user submits ID and address proofs directly, gets real-time guidance during capture, and you receive results in the Back Office portal or through the API response. This mode suits consumer signup, where guided capture prevents the blurry photos and cropped documents that sink first-attempt pass rates.

OFFSITE VERIFICATION

You collect the proofs from your customers and submit them to Shufti for verification. Results come back through the same Back Office portal or API response. This mode suits businesses that already hold customer documents or run verification in batches.

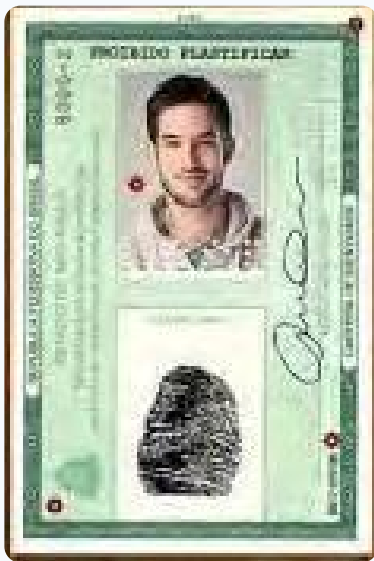
2 | Document Types Selection

Shufti accepts the following Brazilian documents for identity verification.

ID Card. Three ID card generations circulate in Brazil at once, and your flow should be ready for all of them.

RG (Registro Geral). The RG has been Brazil's standard identity card for decades. It carries the holder's name, date of birth, photograph, fingerprint, and a unique RG number, with a barcode on newer versions. Older cards are laminated paper with handwritten or typed entries, which makes automated processing harder. State institutes issued the RG independently, so numbers and layouts differ between states.

CIN (Carteira de Identidade Nacional). The CIN is replacing the RG. It uses the holder's CPF as the single national number, comes as a polycarbonate card or paper document with a digital twin in the gov.br app, and carries a QR code plus a machine readable zone. More than 50 million had been issued by April 2026.



Old-format paper RG, front.



Old-format paper RG, back.



The blue CPF card issued by the Receita Federal.

CPF (Cadastro de Pessoas Físicas). The CPF is a taxpayer registration number, yet it works as the connective tissue of Brazilian identity. Banks, telecoms, and retailers ask for it in nearly every transaction, and the physical blue card shows the holder's name, number, and date of birth. The card itself has few security features, so treat the CPF as a data point to cross match rather than a stand-alone photo ID.

Driver's Licence (CNH). The CNH is one of the most used identity documents in Brazil because it carries a photo, the CPF number, and nationwide validity. It appears in several forms.

Traditional physical licence. A printed card with the holder's photo, personal details, barcodes, and holograms. This is still the format most customers present.



A physical Brazilian driver's licence.

Electronic licence. Cards with an embedded NFC chip that stores personal and biometric data for quick, contactless checks.



Illustration of an electronic driving licence.

Digital licence. The digital CNH lives in the official Carteira Digital de Trânsito app, holds the same legal validity as the printed card, and validates through its QR code.



Illustration of a mobile driving licence.

Passport. The Brazilian passport is a high-security document built for international travel. It carries biometric data, a digital photograph, and layered anti-fraud features, and it is the strongest option where you need globally recognised proof.

Credit/Debit Card. Credit and debit cards exist to move money. They prove possession of an account rather than a person's identity, and they carry no photo, no biometric anchor, and no issuing authority attestation of who the holder is. Do not accept them as identity proof.

3 | Document Type Preference and Performance

Different Brazilian documents produce different verification success rates. Here is how each performs in practice.

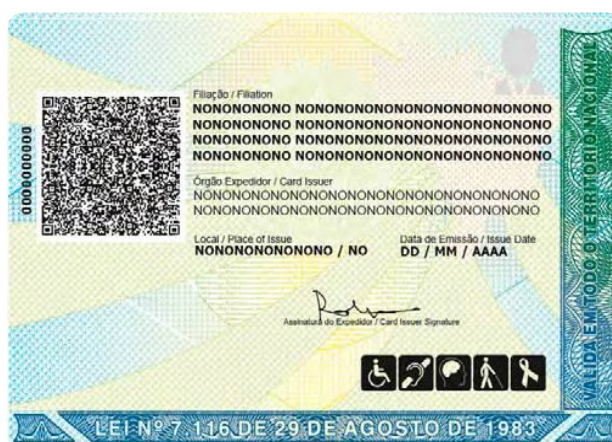
ID Card

The clear layout and layered security of the new national identity card give Shufti clean reads and reliable results. The QR code and machine readable zone give the check two extra anchors to cross match against the printed data.

Extraction parameters: name, date of birth, issue date, document number, expiry date, gender, nationality.



New-format Brazilian identity card, front.



New-format Brazilian identity card, back, with QR code.



CNH driver's licence, front.



CNH driver's licence, back.

Driver's Licence

The CNH suits KYC well because it packs name, photo, CPF number, and licence data into one document. Shufti's OCR reads its formats, old and new, with high accuracy and strong first-attempt conversion.

Extraction parameters: name, date of birth, document number, expiry date, face image, vehicle class.



Brazilian passport data page with machine readable zone.

Passport

Shufti's OCR captures and verifies Brazilian passport data accurately, reading through the holograms and microtext that trip weaker systems.

Extraction parameters: name, date of birth, issue date, document number.

4 | Preferred Document for Identity Verification

Shufti recommends the national identity card, the passport, and the CNH as the preferred documents for identity verification in Brazil, in that order. The identity card leads because of its standard format and layered security, and the CIN strengthens that lead as its rollout spreads. The passport is the strongest alternative where international recognition matters, and the CNH covers customers who hold neither. Shufti's OCR is tuned to the specific characteristics of all three, so data extraction stays quick and accurate whichever one the customer presents.

Verification Settings

Four configuration choices that decide your pass rate in Brazil. The documents are half the picture. These four settings decide how well your Brazilian verification flow performs in production.

01

Verification Mode (Onsite vs. Offsite)

Onsite verification is the better default for Brazil. Document fraud pressure is real, and guided real-time capture with biometric checks gives you stronger control over authenticity than reviewing files a user gathered elsewhere.

02

Data Extraction

Turn on OCR extraction. Brazilian documents mix printed, typed, and handwritten text with Portuguese diacritics, and extraction tuned for these formats reads old paper RGs and new polycarbonate cards alike. Manual keying at this volume introduces errors that automated extraction avoids.

03

Identity Document's Backside Proof

Switch on the backside proof requirement. On the new identity card the back carries the QR code and issue data, and the CNH holds observations and issue details on its reverse. A front-only check misses data your compliance record needs and gives fraudsters a place to hide.

04

Real-Time Proof Capture vs. Proof Upload

Real-Time Proof Capture. Shufti's auto-capture detects the document and photographs it without user fumbling, which makes it the fastest and most reliable route for physical documents.

Proof Upload. Users can also upload pre-captured images of their identity documents. Upload suits users who already hold clean images, including exports of the digital CNH.

Real-Time Proof Capture. Shufti's auto-capture detects the document and photographs it without user fumbling, which makes it the fastest and most reliable route for physical documents.

Merchants control both routes through the **Allow Online** (real-time proof capture) and **Allow Offline** (proof upload) options in the Verification Settings tab. Offering both keeps completion rates high across Brazil's mix of old paper documents and phone-based credentials.

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Global reach, local precision

Shufti verifies identities across 240+ countries and territories and reads each market's documents with local accuracy. In **Brazil** that means the old paper RG, the blue CPF card, every CNH format, and the new national identity card are all handled correctly, so you onboard real people fast and keep fraud out.

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