# SICAF OPERATIONAL MANUAL

FOR FOREIGN COMPANIES

Brasília/DF





Welcome to the Unified Suppliers Registration System (SICAF) Operational Manual for foreign companies, a guide for foreign companies/suppliers who wish to participate in bids in Brazil easily and in digital format.

SICAF, provided by the federal government, is a computerized module that makes up the Integrated System for the Administration of General Services (SIASG), regulated by Decree N°. 3.722 of January 9, 2001 for registering suppliers of goods and services in the scope of federal government agencies, autonomous institutions/agencies, and foundations for bidding and contracting.

The **registration of** foreign companies/suppliers in the SICAF is completely free of charge, and comprises levels I - accreditation, II - legal qualification, III - federal and labor tax compliance, IV - state and/or municipal tax compliance, V - technical qualification, and VI - economic-financial qualification, **which fulfill the requirements of Arts. 27 to 31 of Law N°. 8666 of June 21, 1993 (General Law for Tenders and Contracts).** 

**SEGES Normative Instruction N°. 03, of April 26, 2018,** defines the rules for the operation of SICAF under the Federal Executive Branch. To learn more *click here*.

# 1. Learn more about the qualification of foreign companies

In implementing a policy to open the Brazilian public procurement market to international competition, the Ministry of the Economy proposed guidelines through the Secretariat of Management (part of the Special Secretariat for Debureaucratization, Management, and Digital Government) to allow the registration of foreign companies that do not operate in the country.

These guidelines were established by SEGES Normative Instruction No. 10, of February 10, 2020, which amends IN SEGES No. 03, of April 26, 2018 (establishing rules for the operation of the Unified Suppliers Registration System—SICAF—within the scope of the Federal Executive Branch) to simplify qualification in bidding procedures and contracts.

In order to provide the necessary legal security for federal government contracts, the foreign supplier will be identified by a Trader Identification Number (TIN), or Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS®) and/ or another number that may be officially adopted by the Brazilian **government** in order to allow equal treatment in the current system of contracting of companies with fiscal domicile in Brazil included in the National Registry of Legal Entities (CNPJ), to verify the legal standing and regular operation of these companies, and to establish traceability for identification of the supplier/company, qualification, and life cycle of contracts for payment purposes.

Trader Identification Number (TIN) - is an identification code established by the World Customs Organization (WCO). The WCO has developed a set of guidelines, including technical standards and a recommendation on the TIN to support a globally harmonized approach for the assignment, exchange and identification of TINs for economic operators. The goals of developing these guidelines are to enable the efficient implementation of mutual recognition agreements of authorized economic operators and to strengthen cooperation between customs in general. In short, it is a code that allows the recognition between countries of the tax information of economic operators. It is composed by adding a separate, designated 2-digit alphanumeric ISO country code as a qualifier to the already existing national identifier (the CNPJ in the case of Brazil).

Source: http://www.wcoomd.org/en/topics/facilitation/instrument-and-tools/tools/trader-identification-number.aspx

 DUNS® - is a unique nine-digit identifier for companies worldwide that provides basic data such as company name, country of origin and tax domicile, from *Dun & Bradstreet*. It also enables access to additional information such as financial situation analysis and compliance levels.

Source: https://www.dunsregistered.com/ DUNS.aspx

Foreign companies authorized to operate in Brazil must register in the SICAF in like manner as Brazilian companies by complying with the requirements of Arts. 27 to 31 of Law No. 8666 of June 21. 1993. It should be noted that the authorization decree to operate in the country must be presented at the time of legal qualification (along with registration or authorization to operate issued by the appropriate agency) when the activity so requires under the terms of Art. 28 of Law No. 8666, 1993 and Art. 20-B of IN No. 3, 2018. (Access SICAF Manual (normative) and SICAF Tutorial - Legal Entity registration).

## 2. System Access

**S** ICAF is available on the Federal Government procurement portal (Comprasnet) at <a href="https://www.gov.br/compras/pt-br">https://www.gov.br/compras/pt-br</a>.

To access the system, the individual responsible for the registration (partner, legal representative, or other person authorized by the company) must click on the "Sicaf" icon in the "Systems" tab, as shown in the figure below:



Figure 1 - Access to SICAF

## 3. SICAF's Opening Page

A

fter accessing the system, the SICAF opening page presents general SICAF guidelines, **as shown in the image below.** 



Figure 2 - Access to the system login environment

- After accessing the system, as shown in the figure above, you will access the page where the SICAF registration process begins, as shown below. Note that, in the upper right corner, you may select your preferred language: English, Spanish or Portuguese.
- Next, the foreign supplier status must be provided. Note that companies authorized to operate in Brazil must insert the CNPJ (same as the Brazilian supplier environment), while companies that do not operate in Brazil must insert the corresponding identifier code (TIN or DUNS, or other equivalent).



**NEW USER** - On initial access, the individual who heads the foreign company must register as a new user, as indicated on the screen below. (figure 3). The system will then ask for the name of the individual responsible for registration, the contact e-mail, personal data, and allow you to create a password (figure 4).

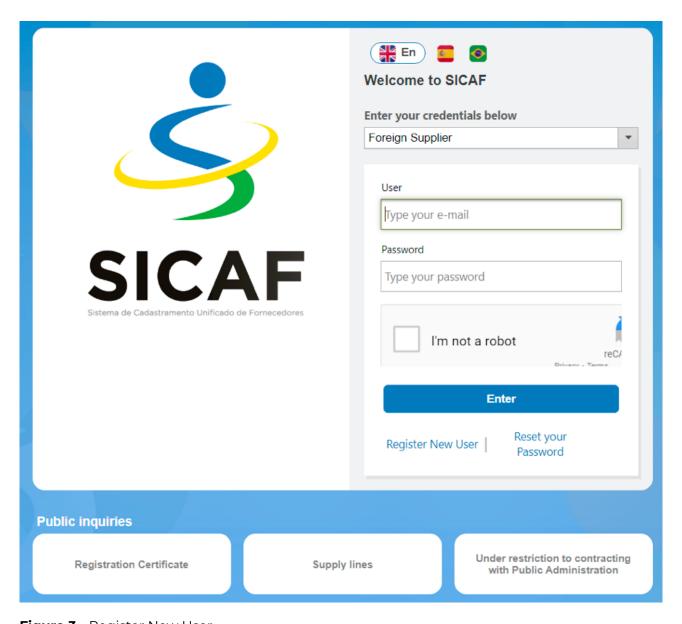


Figure 3 - Register New User

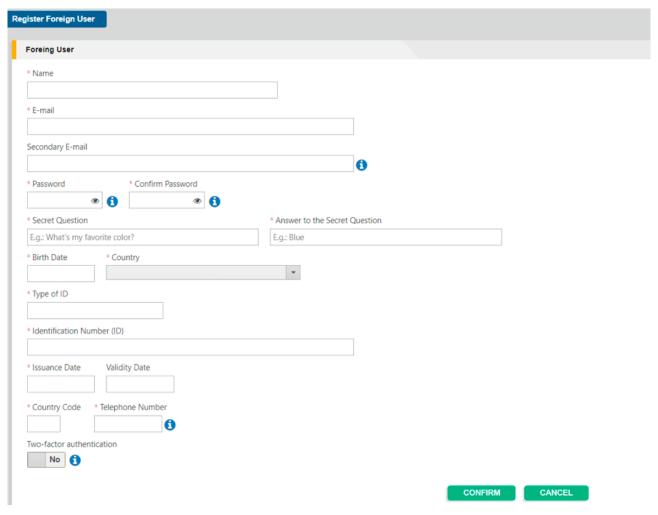


Figure 4 - Create Access Password

• After completing the registration, the user will receive an e-mail with a message containing a link for account activation. If necessary, the user may request that the message be resent.



Figura 5 - Request Link

This is an automatic notification. Please, do not repply.

Dear Mr./Mrs..

An account was created on SICAF using the email

To confirm the email and activate the account, click on Activate Account. If you have not registered, disregard the message.

SICAF - Unified Registration System of Suppliers

http://www.comprasgovernamentais.gov.br

Call Center: 0800 978 9001 or preferably through the link: http://portaldeservicos.planejamento.gov.br

Figure 6 - Email message.

Once the user account has been activated, the system will allow initial access.



Figure 7 - Enrollment activation



**NOTE:** Only the individual responsible for SICAF registration or managers may access/change the foreign company's registration (include information and files).

After initial account access, the individual responsible for the registration may log into Sicaf.

## 4. Registration

egistration of foreign companies that do not operate in the country must be carried out in accordance with **Art. 20-A of Normative Instruction No. 3 of April 26, 2018,** which establishes that:

- The documents required by Brazilian law for SICAF registration, especially for levels II, III, and IV, may be satisfied by means of equivalent documents initially presented via a free translation. (Attachment/Table Equivalent Documents)
- **b)** For the purpose of signing a contract or bidding protocol:
- **b.1)** the equivalent documents submitted with free translation must be replaced in the system by documents translated (by a translator who is accredited in the country) and apostilled in accordance with the provisions of Decree No. 8,660 of January 29, 2016, or another that replaces it or authorized by the respective consulates or embassies.
- **b.2)** the foreign company must include in the system information concerning the legal representative in Brazil having express powers to receive summons and respond administratively or judicially.
- **c)** If no equivalent documents exist, the individual responsible for the registration must indicate this in the appropriate field in the system.

### Level 1

### Accreditation

Accreditation—the first level of SICAF registration—consists of basic information about the partners, managers, individual responsible for the registration, and company data. Regular registration at this level allows interested parties to participate in the open bidding modality, in its electronic form, as well as in the Electronic Waiver and in the Differentiated Electronic Contracting Regime - RDC.

The equivalent documents required at this level can be found in the Appendix of this Manual.

To begin registration click on the registration command in the upper left tab and on Level I – "Credenciamento" (accreditation).

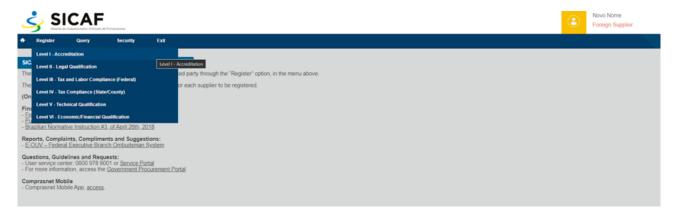


Figure 8 - Level I - Accreditation

Next, indicate the country of origin and foreign identifier (TIN, DUNS, or other that may be officially adopted by the Brazilian government).

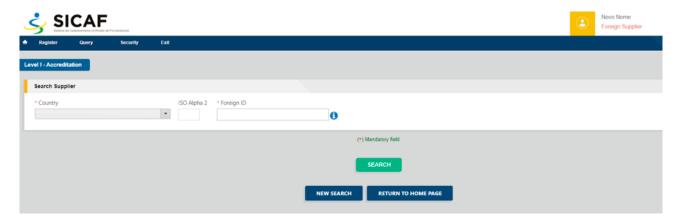


Figure 9 - Foreign company identification



**NOTE:** When completing the Foreign Identifier, the Iso Alpha code for the country is not required.

Next, the system will present you with a form to fill in the following information:



### Information about the foreign company.

Data to be entered: country, foreign identifier, company name, opening date, and contact information.

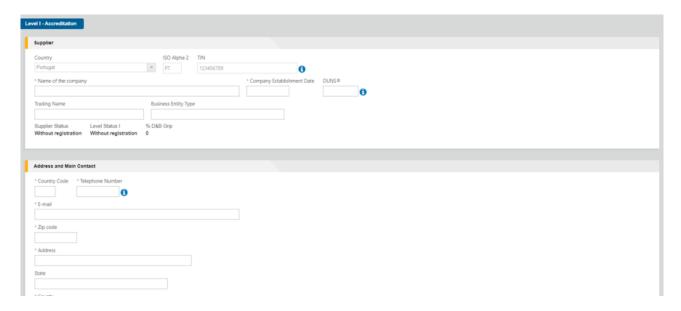


Figure 10 - Supplier Information

## **B** Individual responsible for registration

Partner, legal representative, or other person authorized by the company. (Already registered Figure 4 - Create password)

**Data to be provided:** ID document - type, number, date of issue, expiration date; Name; Country of origin; Date of birth; Main contact address and e-mail.



Figure 11 - Inclusion of the individual responsible for registration

## **C** Legal Representative

Next, provide the legal representative in Brazil, individual or legal entity, with express powers to receive summons and respond administratively or judicially (§4, Art. 32 of Law 8.666, 1993), to sign the contract or bidding protocol.

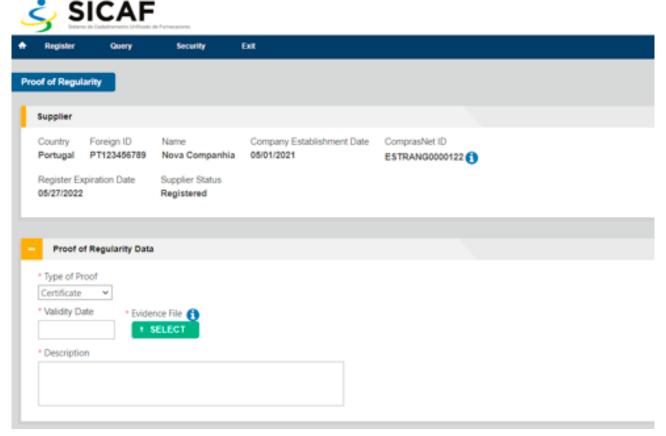


Figure 12 - Legal Representative

Insert power of attorney of the legal representative in Brazil.

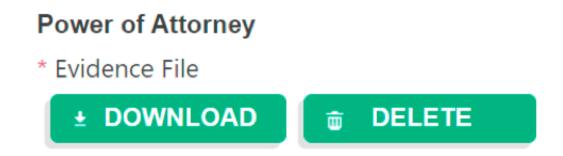


Figure 13 - Power of Attorney

## Members and officers

Register the partnership and officers according to the bylaws or articles of incorporation and updates.

**Data to be provided:** identification document - type, number, date of issuance, expiration date; name and shareholding; country of origin; date of birth; marital status; main contact address and e-mail. In case of managing partner state and include the position.



Figure 14 - Inclusion of the person responsible for the registration, members, and officers

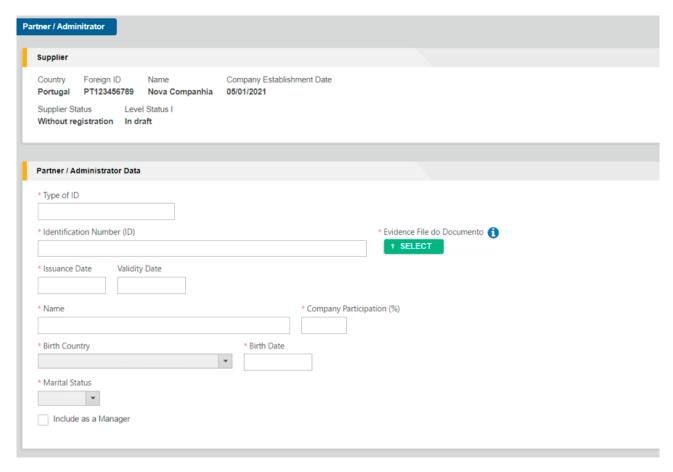


Figure 15 - Adding Member/Officer data

View members and officers who have been included

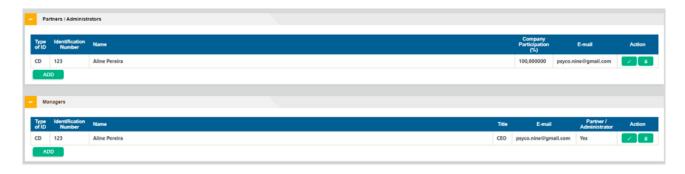


Figure 16 - Viewing information



## Report goods and services.

In order to receive notification of the disclosure of electronic dispensation, biddings, and RDC processes, the company must correctly register its supply line.

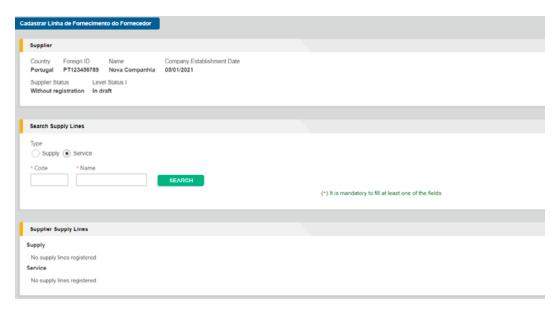


Figure 17 - Supply Line

After entering the information, click save to confirm the registration.

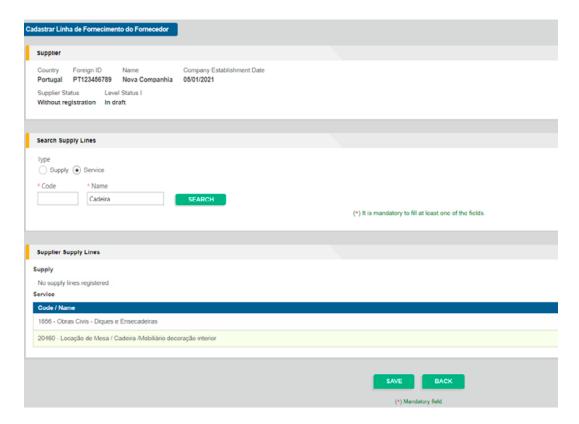


Figure 17 - Confirm Supply Line

## Continuous of Exercision Exercise 1

The foreign company may provide the locations where it operates by continent and countries.

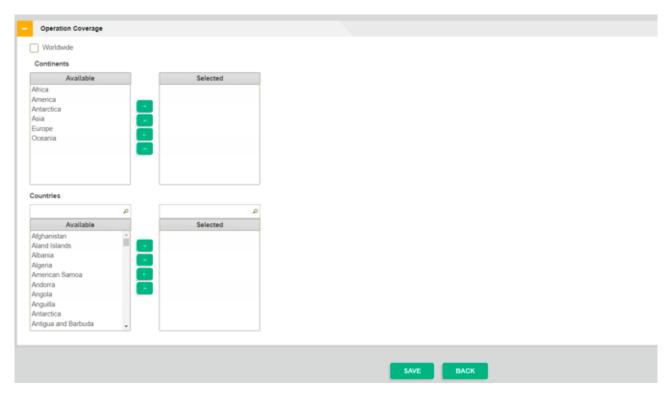


Figure 19 - Locations of Operation

## **G** Conclude the registration

After entering the required information and documents, the person responsible for the registration must click on the option "credenciar" (accredit).

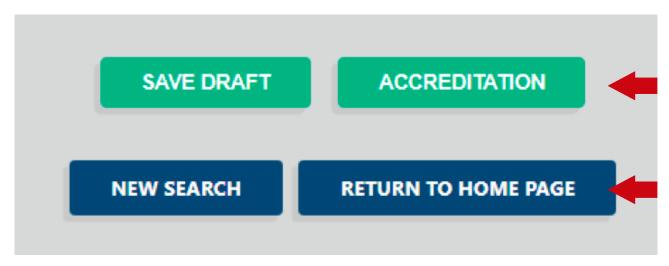


Figure 20 - Accreditation

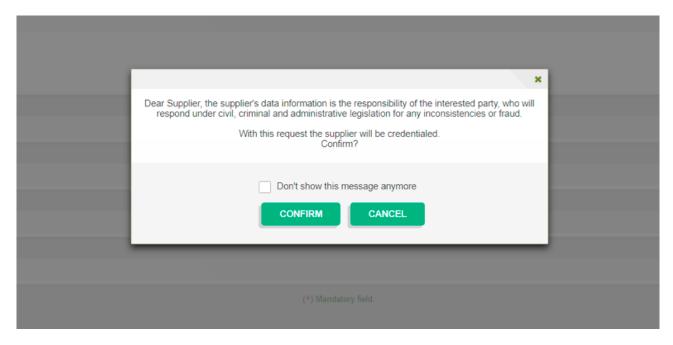


Figure 21 - Responsibility for Information

## (I) Confirm accreditation

The foreign company (supplier) must verify at the end of the registration if the **status in the system appears as accredited,** in order to allow its participation in electronic modalities. Always check the status in the system.

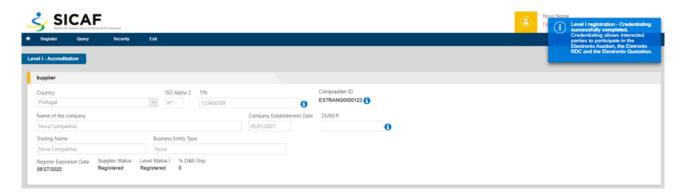


Figure 22 - Confirm Accreditation

#### Level 2

### Legal Qualification

The legal qualification consists of proof that the foreign company is legally constituted and registered in the country of origin. (Supersedes the requirements of Art. 28 of Law No. 8.666, 1993). This level requires uploading the appropriate document related to the articles of incorporation, bylaws, or social contract in force, duly registered in the country of origin, accompanied by updated documents of the election of its administrators and recent changes or respective consolidation.

Initially click on the item "Cadastro" (registration) in the upper tab. After choosing Level II - Legal Entitlement, provide the country and foreign identifier (TIN, DUNS, or other equivalent to the Legal Entity Registration in the country of origin).

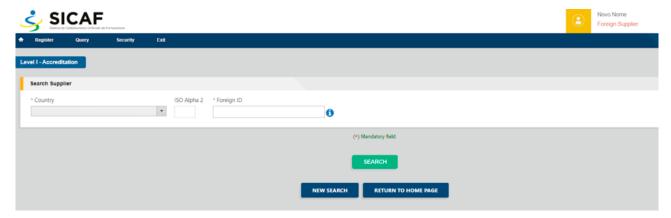


Figure 21 - Level II Legal Qualification



**Note:** When completing the Foreign Identifier, it is not necessary to include the Iso Alpha code for the country.

The system will then open the screen for Level II - Legal Qualification, with guidelines and a request for supporting documents.

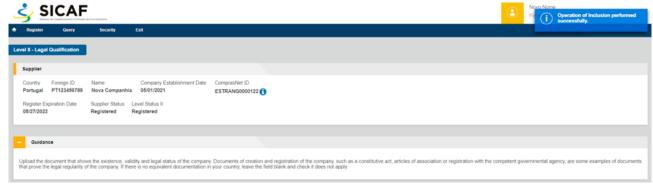


Figure 22 - Guidelines and supporting documents

Include bylaws. (Annex - Equivalent documents).

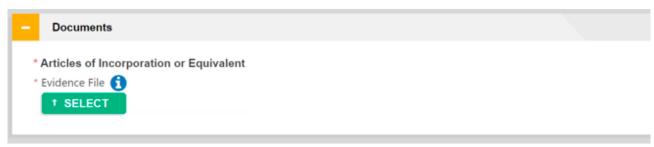


Figure 23 - Include Bylaws

Vi. The person responsible for the registration must save the information.



Figure 26 - Saving Information

Vii. Soon after, the system will inform you that the operation was successful.

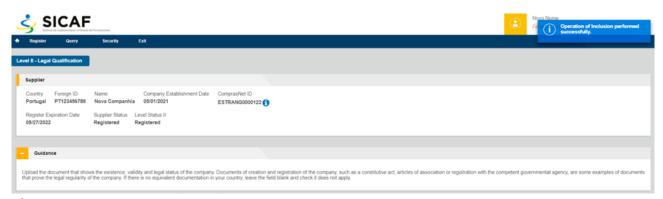


Figure 27 - Confirm Legal Entitlement

### Level 3

### Federal and Labor Tax Compliance

The foreign company must prove that it is up to date with its tax and labor obligations in its country of origin (it supersedes the requirements of Art. 29 of Law No. 8.666, 1993.) At this level, Statements that the company is not in default with its federal taxes and comply with its labor obligations must be uploaded (Annex - Equivalent Documents).

First, click on the "Cadastro" (registration) item in the upper tab. After choosing Level III – Federal and Labor Tax Compliance, proceed to include the supporting document.

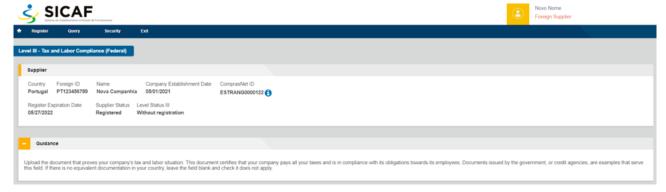


Figure 28 - Guidelines

Include the document type, declaration control code, and expiration date. (Annex - Equivalent Documents).

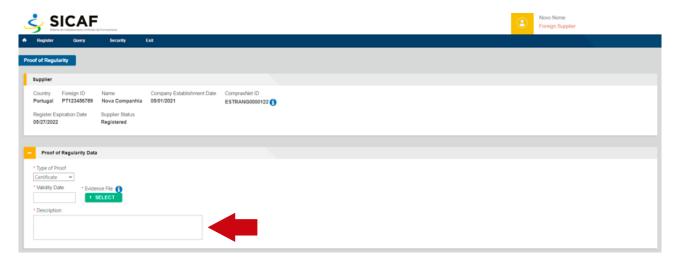


Figure 29 - Upload Statements

If there are no equivalent documents, the individual responsible for the registration should indicate that the requirement does not apply to the foreign company and explain the situation in the appropriate field (paragraph 1 of Art. 20-A of IN No. 3, 2018).

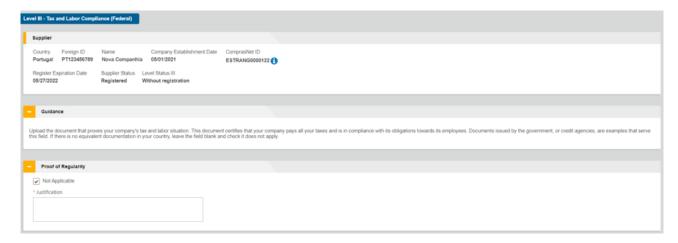


Figure 30 - No equivalent documents

#### Level 4

### State and Municipal Tax Compliance

The foreign company must prove that it is up to date with its State and Municipal obligations, to the extent that such tax collections are required in the country of origin (it supersedes the requirements of Art. 29 of Law No. 8.666, 1993). At this level, a Statement that the company is in good standing with its obligations vis-à-vis these respective levels of government must be uploaded. (Annex - Equivalent Documents).

If there are no equivalent documents, the individual responsible for the registration should add that the requirement does not apply to the foreign company and explain the situation in the appropriate field (paragraph 1 of Art. 20-A of IN no. 3, 2018).

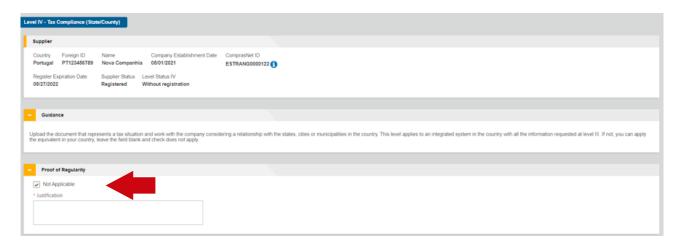


Figure 31 - No equivalent documents

### **Level 5**

### Technical Qualification

In the economic-financial qualification section, the company must prove that it has the necessary and sufficient technical capacity to perform the contract in a satisfactory manner (this supersedes the requirement under item I, Art. 30 of Law no. 8.666, 1993). At this level, the company must upload Certificates or Statements from public or private legal entities, as well proof of registration of Technical Professional(s) for the supplier in the appropriate Professional Regulation Council, in the country of origin, when so required under specific provisions in the Request for Proposals (sole paragraph of Art. 3).

#### Comments:

- Documentation regarding the supplier's technical qualification must be provided for in the Request for Proposals, as conditions require (Art. 27 of IN no. 3, of 2018).
- 2. Registration or enrollment with the appropriate professional agency may be waived when it is not required for the exercise of the activity (§ 2 of Art. 14 of IN no. 3, of 2018).

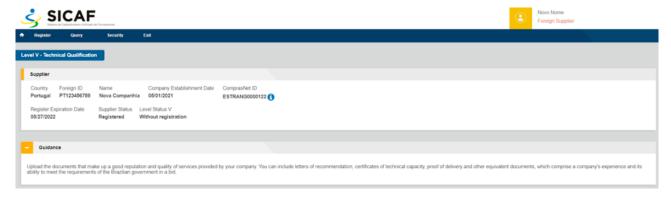


Figure 32 - Guidelines



At the appropriate Professional Regulation Council, in the country of origin. Information required: Trade association, registration no., and expiration date. (Annex - Equivalent Documents).

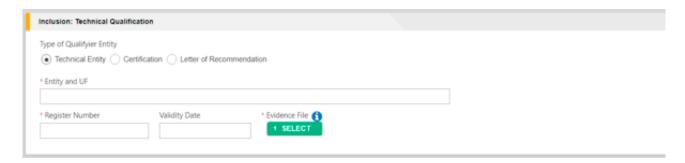


Figure 33 - Include Technical Qualification



### Provided by public or private legal entities.

Information required: Certifying entity, certificate or statement no., expiration date.

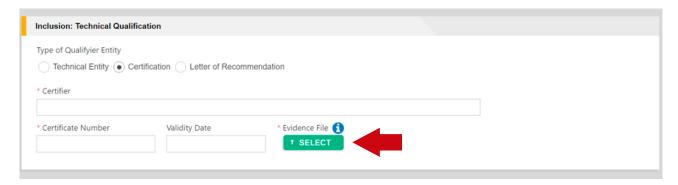


Figure 34 - IInclude Certificates or Statements

After the information is included, click on save. The system will let you know that the information was successfully included.

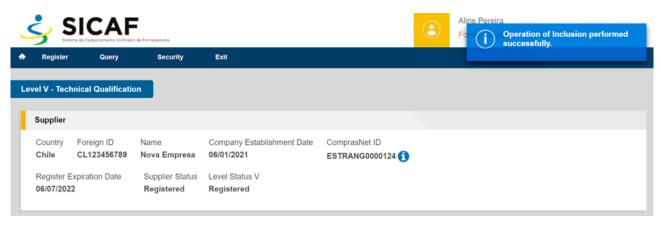


Figure 35 - Confirm Technical Qualification

### Level 6

### Economic-Financial Qualification

In the economic-financial qualification, it is important to demonstrate that funds and resources are available for the satisfactory performance of the contract (this supersedes the requirements of Art. 31, Law no. 8.666, 1993). At this level, the Balance Sheet and financial statements must be uploaded. These should be for the previous last fiscal year, having been prepared and registered in accordance with the law and the Certificate issued by the official agency of the country of origin, attesting that the foreign company is not undergoing bankruptcy, judicial reorganization, or any other similar process. (Annex - Equivalent Documents).



Figure 36 - Guidelines



### **Balance sheet and financial statements**

Should include the following: initial and final period, date of expiration of the balance sheet, type of balance sheet (initial, interim, or annual), and month and year in the case of financial statements.

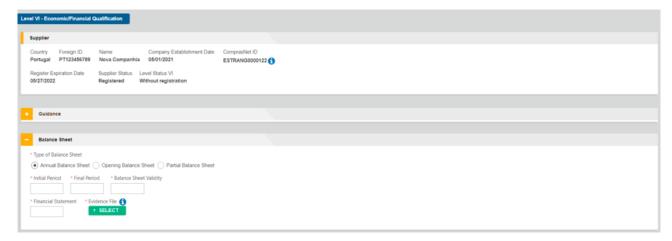


Figure 37 - Include Balance Sheet and Financial Statements



## **B** Certificate of bankruptcy or judicial recovery,

if any, should include the following: Certificate control code and expiration date.

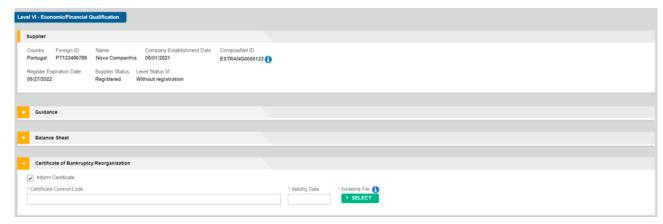


Figure 38 - Bankruptcy or Judicial Reorganization Certificate

After you save, the system will let you know that the operation was successful.

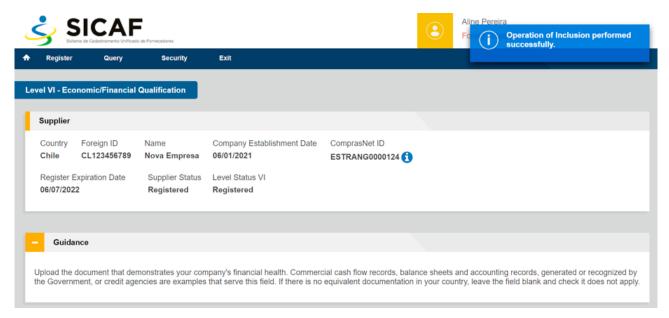


Figure 39 - Confirm Economic-Financial Qualification

## 5. Searches

The system also allows searches to be conducted in order to verify registration information and pending issues (registration levels), and also reports to be generated (Supplier Status, Technical Qualification, Active Occurrences, and Current Impediments) and the supplier's Certificate of Registration (CRC).



Figure 40 - Searches



**NOTE:** The Certificate of Registration may be issued, for the purpose of demonstrating that the supplier is accredited in the SICAF, except for cases of suppliers with an INACTIVE registration and expired registration data.

## 6. Security

n the "Segurança" (Security) tab, the system allows you to change the registration data, the individual responsible for the registration, and the password. Changing the individual responsible for the registration can be performed by the partner/administrator.



Figure 41 - Security

## 7. Financial Calculator

## Accounting ratios

Pursuant to paragraph 5, Art. 31 of Law 8.666 of 1993, the "evidence of the company's good financial standing shall be provided in an objective manner, by calculating accounting ratios provided for in the invitation to bid and duly justified during the administrative proceedings initiated with the invitation to bid. Ratios and indexes that are not usually adopted for assessing whether a company has sufficient financial standing to comply with the obligations arising from the bid cannot be required.

SEGES provides a financial calculator as a tool to support suppliers, agencies, and bidding entities in order to verify the company's financial position based on the information contained in the Balance Sheet and included into the SICAF by the supplier (Articles 15 and 16 of IN No. 03 of 2018). It can also be used to calculate accounting ratios (paragraph 5 of Art. 31 of Law No. 8666 of 1993) that are usually adopted as General Liquidity (LG), General Solvency (GS), and Current Liquidity (LC), as provided for in the Request for Proposals (Art. 22 of IN no. 03, of 2018), available at https://antigo.comprasgovernamentais.gov.br/index.php/calculadora.



Figure 42 - Financial Calculator

## **ANNEX**

# Documents required for registration at Sicaf

The following is a comparative summary of documentation that is required for qualifying Brazilian and foreign companies that do not operate in the country.

Skill Levels	Brazilian Companies	Foreign companies (equivalent documentation)
Level I Accreditation	<ul> <li>Registration in the National Register of Legal Entities - CNPJ.</li> <li>Individual Taxpayer ID (CPF) and ID card (RG) of the partners, managers and spouses/companions</li> <li>Marriage or marriage certificates of the manager(s) and partner(s);</li> <li>Proof of enrollment in the State or Municipal Taxpayer Registry, if any.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Foreign identifier (TIN, DUNS or other that may be officially adopted by the Brazilian government)</li> <li>Official personal identification document with photo issued by the country of origin, for members and directors, as well as spouses/partners.</li> <li>Marriage certificates of the manager(s) and partner(s);</li> </ul>

#### Skill Levels

#### Brazilian Companies

## Foreign companies (equivalent documentation)

#### Level II

#### Legal Qualification

- the Board of Trade (individual entrepreneur); or an act of incorporation, bylaws, or articles of incorporation in effect, and all contractual amendments duly registered at the Board of Trade (entrepreneurial company or cooperative); or an act of incorporation duly registered at the Registry Office of Legal Entities (non-business companies).
- Documents for the election or appointment of the current directors
   (companies) accompanied by proof of the current board of directors;
   accompanied by proof of the current board of directors; for non-corporate

- Proof of regular legal existence, by means of a suitable document from the foreign company's country of origin, correlated to the articles of incorporation, bylaws, or corporate contract in force, duly registered in the country of origin.
- Updated documents on the election of directors and recent changes or respective consolidation.
- Power of attorney of the legal representative in Brazil, individual or legal entity, with express powers to receive summons and respond administratively or judicially (§4, Art. 32 of Law 8.666, 1993).

#### Level III and IV

#### Tax and Labor

- Proof of quittance with the Federal Treasury (Internal Revenue Service and Attorney General of the National Treasury -Active Debt) and INSS;
- Proof of quittance with the State, Municipal, and . District Treasury.
- FGTS Negative Certificate; and
- Labor Clearance Certificate (CNDT).
- A statement issued by a competent authority in its country of origin, that the company does not owe taxes in any level of government in the country of origin, or a certificate to that effect.
- Declaration issued by a competent authority in your country of origin, of the inexistence of labor debts to employees and unemployed persons, or a certificate proving the same.

Skill Levels	Brazilian Companies	Foreign companies (equivalent documentation)
Level V  Technical Qualification	Proof of Registration or Enrollment of the Professional(s) Responsible Technician(s) of the supplier in the competent Professional Regulation Council.  Certificates or Attestations provided by legal entities of public or private law aimed at proving the company's operational technical capacity.	<ul> <li>Proof of Registration or Enrollment of the Professional(s) Responsible Technician(s) of the supplier in the competent Professional Regulation Council, in the country of origin</li> <li>Certificates or Attestations provided by legal entities of public or private law intended to prove the technical capacity or capability of the foreign company (technical-professional and technical-operational evidence), must be duly translated.</li> </ul>
Level VI  Economic- Financial Qualification	Balance sheet and financial statements for the last fiscal year, prepared and registered under the terms of the legislation in effect.  Negative certificate of bankruptcy or judicial reorganization	<ul> <li>Balance Sheet and financial statements for the last fiscal year.</li> <li>Certificate issued by an official agency of the country of origin, certifying that the foreign company is not facing bankruptcy, judicial reorganization or similar situation.</li> </ul>

**Table** – Equivalent Documents

**Note:** "Equivalent documents" are considered to be those intended for the same purpose as the Brazilian supplier's presentation document, or those that contain information similar to documents issued in Brazil.

For the insertion of documents in the system, the individual responsible for registration must observe the following rules:

- **a.** The formats and extensions accepted in SICAF are: pdf, .zip, .rar, and .7z.
- The character limit for the file name to be entered is 150.
- C. The maximum sizes per document type can be checked in the system by placing the cursor over the item choose file.



**NOTE!** In case there are no equivalent documents for the registration levels, the individual in charge must advise that the requirement does not apply to the foreign company and indicate the same in the appropriate field in Sicaf.





