

Sworn vs certified translation: when it is legally required — and when you are paying for one you do not need.

What the title actually means

Traducción Oficial in Spanish-speaking Latin America and Tradução Juramentada in Brazil are not descriptions of care taken. They are legal formalities. The translator is a public officer accredited by a court, ministry, or national registry, and the translation carries a signature, stamp, and registered number that give the document legal effect in that jurisdiction. It is a certification of authorship and accountability, not a rating of translation quality.

Where it is genuinely required

Typically for documents entering a judicial or civil-registry process: powers of attorney, notarized affidavits, apostilled foreign public documents, corporate incorporation papers, court exhibits, and certain immigration or civil-status filings. Some regulators also require sworn translation of specific artifacts inside a dossier — for example, an apostilled Certificate of Pharmaceutical Product, an apostilled GMP certificate, or a notarized letter of authorization from the sponsor to the local representative.

Where it is usually not required

Large parts of a regulatory dossier — study protocol, investigator's brochure, informed consent form, module summaries, labeling drafts, response-to-queries — are not, in most LATAM countries, required to be sworn translations. Health authorities accept translations from a qualified translator or vendor with a signed certification of accuracy. Requiring a sworn translation for every page inflates cost and slows filings without changing what the regulator will accept.

What Amavita does and does not claim

We are not sworn translators and we do not present ourselves as one. For the specific artifacts a regulator requires as sworn or juramentada, we coordinate a locally accredited translator in-country and manage the handoff so the certified stamp, registry number, and apostille chain are correct. For everything else, we deliver a certified translation with a signed statement of accuracy that meets the standard health authorities apply in practice.

Educational summary of publicly available regulation, not legal advice. Requirements move. The matrix carries the dated citation for each country.