

# ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



(LITTER ENFORCEMENT)

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REGULATIONS 2013



*Produced  
by:*

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Established under the Environmental Protection Act in 1996, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responsible for the management, conservation, protection and improvement of the environment within Guyana. It is also required to prevent and control pollution, as well as, assess the impact of economic development on the environment.

Under the Environmental Protection Act, Cap 20:05, Laws of Guyana, the EPA is mandated to put measures in place for effective environmental management and sustainable use of natural resources. This includes the establishment, monitoring, and enforcement of environmental regulations.

Improper solid waste management and pollution of waterways affecting drainage and public health have been major issues for Guyana. It was against this backdrop that the (Litter Enforcement) Regulations 2013, were developed, hereinafter referred to as the Litter Enforcement Regulations.

The goal is to provide for the effective management of solid waste in Guyana by addressing the repulsive habits of littering and improper waste disposal.

# Foreword

Waste is a bi-product of life, as all living things produce waste. Moreover, developmental activities including both new and existing industries, large-scale commercial entities, or smaller, local business places, will by its very nature generate waste.

Solid waste management is one of the most problematic environmental issues, not only in Guyana but globally. As consumption patterns demand pre-packaged easily accessible items, waste continues to accumulate.

Unfortunately, many of the packaging materials used to satisfy consumption patterns are non-biodegradable, meaning materials that cannot be broken down by natural organisms. These materials are often disposed of in the environment, creating serious consequences for human health, biodiversity, and the natural environment.

This publication seeks to summarise and simplify the Litter Enforcement Regulations. It highlights the offences, along with their prescribe penalties. It is not intended to serve as a substitute for legal or any other form of professional advice. It is designed so that readers can simply follow and understand the main objectives, requirements, processes, and most importantly, the penalties and offences prescribed by the Regulations.

This anti-pollution body of regulations seeks to raise awareness, understanding and acceptance of our roles and responsibilities to foster positive actions for environmental protection.

The coastal plain is one of the most problematic areas for solid waste management, given it's the home to approximately 90% of Guyana's population. Moreover, the narrow coastal belt is the hub for the country's agricultural and administrative activities. The EPA's role and intention in this regard is to encourage all citizens to understand and embrace their role in environmental protection.

# What is Litter ?

Litter- means any solid or liquid material or product or combination of solid or liquid materials or products including but not limited to any bottles, tins, logs, sawdust, derelict vehicles, cartons, packages, packing materials, paper, glass, food, animal remains, garbage, debris, aggregate, dirt, waste (including any human and animal waste) or any other refuse or rubbish or waste material, and any other material or product that is designated as litter by the Minister by notice published in the Gazette.



# Effects of Littering

***Litter impacts the environment and the quality of life in several ways;***

- Poor aesthetics - litter speaks negatively about the image of a place or country to both residents and tourists.
- It harms aquatic and wildlife - litter carelessly thrown into the streets, canals, waterways, and trenches, travels along the waterways and can injure or kill aquatic and wildlife.
- It contaminates our waterways - litter such as organic matter pollutes the waterways by releasing harmful chemicals.
- It threatens public health- litter attracts vermin and is a breeding ground for bacteria and other diseases.
- It is uneconomical- large amounts of taxpayers' monies and State revenues have to be used to remove waste disposed of improperly.



# The Environmental Protection (Litter Enforcement) Regulations 2013

Litter abounds across our country. Persons appear to litter with little or no regard for the environment and the critical services it provides for us. This callous behavior has led to a very disturbing situation in many of the areas of the country, especially the capital city which continues to struggle with waste management. Judging from the extent of the garbage situation, it is realistic to assume that a wide range of persons and entities are contributing to it by littering. This unsavoury litter situation prompted the Environmental Protection (Litter Enforcement) Regulations which were passed in November 2013.

This was especially necessary as the litter that pervades our society threatens our health, biodiversity, water resources as well as, our economy. These Regulations were enacted under the Environmental Protection Act which provides for the establishment, monitoring and enforcement of regulations for effective environmental management.



# What do the Litter Regulations say ?

The Litter Enforcement Regulations gives the EPA the requisite powers to enforce against littering. The Environmental Protection (Litter Enforcement) Regulations (2013) focuses on the following:

- **Litter Offenses;**
- **Issuing Verbal Instructions;**
- **Issuing Litter Removal & Clean-up Orders;**
- **Penalties;**
- **Fixed Penalties;**
- **Issuing a Charge; and**
- **Taking an Individual into Custody.**

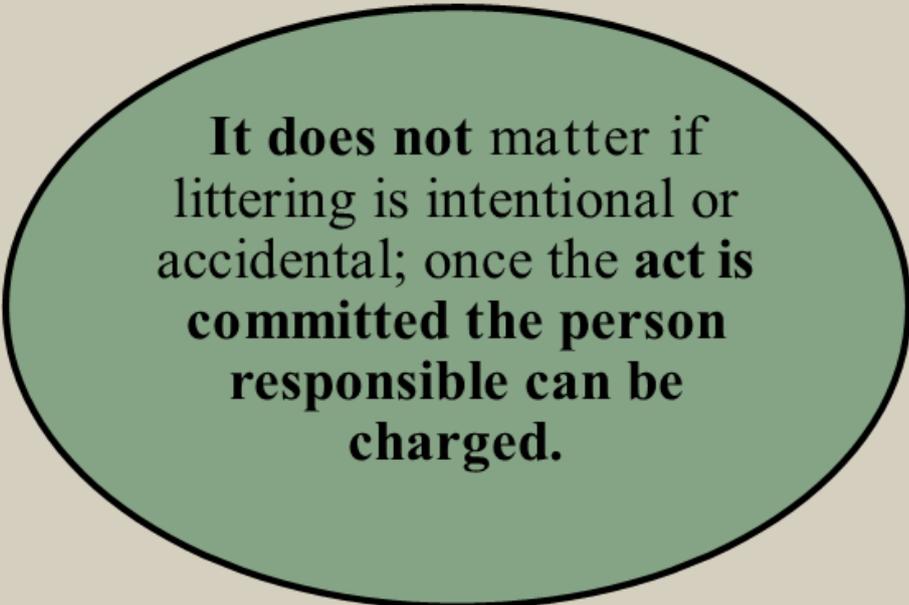


# What is an Offence?

The Environmental Protection (Litter Enforcement) Regulations 2013 list four main offences:

1. Depositing Litter in a Public Place (Regulation 3)
2. Disposal of Litter from a Motor Vehicle or Trailer (Regulation 4)
3. Failure of Owner of Bus to provide a receptacle for litter (Regulation 5)
4. Offence of Littering Premises (Regulation 6)

Other offences include encouraging or assisting someone to commit an offence under Regulations 3, 4 and 6, as detailed in Regulation 7 and failure to comply with Litter Removal and Clean-up Orders, as detailed in Regulation 24.



**It does not matter if littering is intentional or accidental; once the act is committed the person responsible can be charged.**

# *It is an Offence to Litter in a Public Place*

Under this offence a person who without reasonable excuse:

(a) deposits any litter in or on any public place other than:

1. in a receptacle placed for the purpose of collecting it; or
2. in or at any approved site; and

(b) having deposited any litter otherwise than as prescribed in subparagraphs (i) and (ii) of paragraph (a) in or on any public place (whether inadvertently or otherwise) leaves such litter there, is guilty of an offence.



# *It is an Offence to Dispose litter from motor vehicle or trailer*

A person is liable where he transports in or on a motor vehicle or trailer along any motorway, road, street, alley, lane, mall or thoroughfare, any substance or material which is likely to fall or blow off the motor vehicle or trailer, because while being so transported it is either not sufficiently secured from falling off or not so covered as to prevent it from blowing off the motor vehicle or trailer.

This offence attracts a fine of **fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) or in the case of a body corporate, one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000)**

Under this offence the owner of every bus or taxi shall, while his vehicle is plying for hire, must provide in a convenient place therein one or more receptacles for the deposit of litter.

Failure to provide receptacles for public transport will attract a fine of **fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000).**

*The absence of a waste receptacle  
is not an excuse to litter  
It is an Offence !*

If a person places litter in a public place not intended for garbage collection then this person would have committed an offence. A person who gives permission or causes another person to litter a public place is guilty of an offence. An individual found guilty of this offence under the Litter Enforcement Regulations shall pay the fine of **fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000)** or in the case of a body corporate **one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000)**.



# *It is an Offence to litter on Private Premises*

A person is guilty of an offence, where he/she throws down, drops or otherwise deposits and leaves any litter in or into any premises owned or occupied by another without the consent of that other person.

An individual found guilty of this offence under the Litter Enforcement Regulations may be liable to a fine of **thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000)** and imprisonment for 6 months.



# *Persons who litter will be ordered to clean it up*

If the litter left in an area defaces that area, Litter Wardens appointed by the EPA will give notice to the individual or company responsible for such litter to clean it up and restore the area. Similarly, the owner or person who occupies premises with litter can be ordered to remove it. This may apply particularly to litter such as dead animals, or materials and substances that pose a public health risk.

Notices may be given orally or through writing via mail.

**Litter Prevention Warden or  
“Warden” means a persons appointed  
in accordance with the Litter Enforce-  
ment Regulations**

***Save yourself the embarrassment and cost of littering – dispose of your waste properly!***

**The Agency calls on all Guyanese to join with us in promoting and sustaining a clean and healthy environment.**

**Remember, your environment is a reflection of you!**

**Do the right thing!**



**THE FULL TEXT OF THE  
REGULATIONS  
IS AVAILABLE ON THE EPA'S WEBSITE**

**at**

**[www.epaguyana.org](http://www.epaguyana.org)**

**Or call 225-5471 for more details.**



# HOW TO MAKE AN ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLAINT

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), hereby advises the general public that there is a new system in place to manage environmental complaints.

In this regard, members of the public can report environmental complaints utilising any of the follow:



**COMPLAINT  
24-HOUR HOTLINE  
NUMBER:  
592-225-5469**



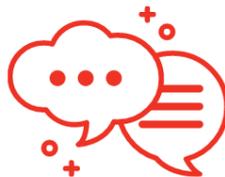
**SEND AN EMAIL TO  
COMPLAINT@  
complaint@epaguy  
ana.org**



**SEND A COMPLAINT  
LETTER THROUGH  
THE POSTAL  
SERVICES.**

## PLEASE NOTE:

Complaint reports **MUST** include : the nature of the complaint; name and address of business/entity/person causing the pollution; name of the complainant (person making the complaint); contact information and address of complainant .



For further information, please email us at [epa@epaguyana.org](mailto:epa@epaguyana.org) or contact our offices as follows:

1. Whim Office – 337-2201; and
2. Linden Office – 444-2313.

Please be assured the Agency will treat all information received from the public with strictest confidence. Complainants, however, should be willing to attend Court and testify should the matter require legal action.