



**Environmental  
Protection  
Agency**

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## **Environmental Permit**

Issued under the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000.

Reference No.:	20240704-EFGAP
Fees:	Medium (C1) US\$2,500 Five (5) years (i.e., US\$500 per year)
Fees Paid:	US\$ 2,500 (November, 2024 to October, 2029)

Addressee(s): Mr. Bheesham Ramnarace  
Director  
Essential Foods Group Inc.  
Lot 217 South Road,  
Lacytown,  
Georgetown.

Activity: Operation of an Agro-Processing Facility

Mr. Bheesham Ramnarace, operating under the name, Essential Foods Group Inc., hereinafter referred to as the "Permit Holder", is hereby authorised in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000, to construct and operate an Agro-Processing Facility located at Plot 1, Being Portion of Block 'A' Uitkomst Canal Number 1, West Bank Demerara, hereinafter referred to as the "Project", in a manner indicated in the Application submitted on July 4, 2024, subject to the terms and conditions set forth herein under the Environmental Protection Act, existing and/or forthcoming regulations made under the said Act, and/or any other applicable laws, best practices, guidelines and standards relevant to this project.

This Environmental Permit is issued pursuant to the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000.

*[Signature]*  
23/2/2024

**Terms and Conditions for Operation to be adhered to by the Permit Holder, His Servants, Agents and/or Sub-Contractors:**

**1.0 CONSTRUCTION PHASE**


- 1.1 Conduct all construction activities in accordance with measures outlined in the Project Summary, unless otherwise stated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- 1.2 Utilise the land in accordance with the site plan submitted to the Agency. All specifications of location, pathways, reserve and boundary lines must be adhered to, unless otherwise authorised.
- 1.3 All relevant employees must be equipped with and trained in the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in accordance with their job specifications. PPE includes but is not limited to, protective headwear, respirators (N95 filters/mask), ear protection, safety vests, and safety boots.
- 1.4 Identify suitable areas for material stockpile and equipment during construction.
- 1.5 Avoid road traffic hazards or unnecessary inconveniences to the general public through appropriate planning and management of the construction site.
- 1.6 All construction tools, equipment, and machinery must be operated in accordance to the Manufacturer's Specifications.
- 1.7 All construction tools, equipment, and machinery must be promptly removed from site upon completion of construction activities.
- 1.8 All construction wastes must be removed from site as soon as possible and/or upon completion of construction activities. Wastes must be disposed in accordance to measures outlined in the Project Summary.
- 1.9 All vehicles utilised for the transport of building material to the site must be appropriately covered to minimise the risk of dust emissions to the environment.

## **2.0 OPERATION**

- 2.1 Make an application to the Agency to vary this Environmental Permit in instances where it becomes necessary to:
- i. change the construction, operation, structure, or layout of the facility and all associated buildings;
  - ii. change equipment, machine, apparatus, mechanism, system or technology serving the facility;
  - iii. change the position and design of any outlet at the point or points of discharge of effluents; or effect any other change outlined in Regulation 20(3) of the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations.
- 2.2 Submit a detailed **Environmental Management Plan** to the Agency for approval **within 60 days of issuance of this Environmental Permit**. This plan should identify feasible and cost-effective measures to treat **ALL** solid waste and effluent streams expected to be generated from the project, to acceptable limits, before final discharge to the environment.
- 2.3 The Environmental Management Plan should be implemented and functioning **within 30 days of the approval of the plan**.

## **3.0 RICE MILL**

- 3.1 Ensure that all mechanical equipment, for example, furnace, milling apparatus and separator are operated in accordance with manufacturer's specifications. Additionally, all mechanical equipment and vehicles shall be regularly maintained and operated at optimal levels.
- 3.2 The manufacturing process must be done in accordance with internationally recognised food safety principles and standards and consistent with the principles and practice of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point System (HACCP).
- 3.3 The Permit Holder shall ensure that the operation is enclosed to minimize the impact of dust and ash on the receiving environment. A dust/ash collection system equipped with extractor fans and a containment bin shall be installed and maintained. The containment bin must be appropriately sized to accommodate the storage of a minimum of 75 % of paddy waste generated during a typical milling season.
- 3.4 All walking and work surfaces must be kept clean and dry by preventing spillage through equipment design and operation. In the event of a spill, it must be cleaned up in a timely manner using appropriate spill-containment and clean-up methods.

  
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- 3.5 The Permit Holder shall apply wet suppression techniques (where necessary) and/or erect dust screens/fences to control particulate matter/dust emissions from the facility, material stockpiles, paddy husk heap, milling area, and other components of the operation that would generate dust.
- 3.6 Ensure that all pest control applications are conducted by a pest control operative certified by the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Board (PTCCB). Use only pesticides approved for use in Guyana by the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Board.
- 3.7 The pest control operative must be equipped with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) according to the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) during the application of pesticides and/or decontamination of spraying equipment.
- 3.8 Use only fumigants approved for use by Guyana Rice Development Board (GRBD) and PTCCB and ensure all relevant staff has been trained by GRDB on their use, for example, application of the correct/effective concentrations at the relevant time.
- 3.9 Decontaminate all empty agrochemical containers in accordance with decontamination procedures prescribed in the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for each chemical. Where such procedures are not prescribed, containers shall be decontaminated by triple-rinsing (rinsing three times) and all rinsate/effluent generated must be disposed into a spray can and sprayed on vegetation or weeds in an area at least 10 metres away from any waterway.
- 3.10 All employees working within the rice milling operation must be equipped with appropriate PPE and trained in the use of all assigned PPE e.g., hi-visibility vest, respirator (N95 filter or N95 mask), hard hat, gloves, and appropriate footwear. The Permit Holder shall enforce the use of assigned PPE by employees and maintain a PPE distribution log. *The PPE distribution log must be made available, upon request, to Environmental Officers during a compliance inspection.*
- 3.11 Ensure that all employees are trained in the use of the fire extinguishers and firefighting protocols.

#### **4.0 EMPLOYEES AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY**

- 4.1 Adhere to the requirements of the **Occupational Safety and Health Act, Cap. 99:01, Laws of Guyana.**
  - 4.1.1 Provide employees with the necessary protective equipment to fit their job specifications.



- 4.1.2 A first aid kit equipped according to the Guyana Red Cross standards must be located on site at times. Additionally, communication and transportation systems must be in place to respond to emergencies.
  - 4.1.3 Provide communication and transportation systems to respond to emergencies.
- 4.2 All relevant employees must be made aware of the Conditions of this Environmental Permit, and be provided with training on the good environmental practices. Records of such training must be submitted as part of your Annual Report.
- 4.3 Demarcate transport corridors and working areas and ensure the proper placement of handrails on platforms, ladders, and stairs.
- 4.4 Provide areas for employees to wash off hands and skin, before entering and leaving the premises.
- 4.5 Ensure employees are trained in the correct use of the equipment including the use of machine safety devices, handling/storage and emergency shutoff procedures.
- 4.6 Maintain adequate ventilation throughout the processing facility to protect against the growth of molds and fungi and the protection of product from contamination. Air flow should be from cleaner section to dirtier section.
- 4.7 Ensure physical segregation of work and welfare facilities to maintain worker personal hygiene.
- 4.8 Practice integrated pest control management. If the use of pesticides is required, ensure that all pest control applications are conducted either by a Pest Control Operator registered and certified by the PTCCB **OR** an employee of the Facility certified as a pest control operative by the PTCCB. **In the latter case, the Facility should be licensed to conduct pest control activity and:**
  - i. Equip the PCO with PPE prescribed in the Safety Data Sheets (SDS) during all pesticide applications, including baiting, spraying and rinsing.
  - ii. Use **ONLY** pesticides approved by the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Board (PTCCB). **Pesticides should be mixed in accordance with the pesticides label directions.**



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## **5.0 WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT**

### **5.1 Adhere to the provisions of the Environmental Protection (Water Quality) Regulations, 2000.**

### **5.2 Maintain the integrity of water receiving bodies. Effluent discharges should be in accordance with the Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS) Interim Guidelines for Industrial Effluent Discharge into the Environment not exceeding the parameter limits below:**

- Temperature (<40° C);
- pH (5.0-9.0);
- Total Suspended Solids (TSS <50 mg/L);
- Oil and Grease (<10 mg/L);
- Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD <50 mg/L); and
- Turbidity (<30 NTU).

The Parameters listed above must be monitored on a biannual basis (once during the dry season and once during the rainy season). Results from such monitoring must be submitted to the Agency as part of your **Annual Report**.

### **5.3 Equip the outlets of wastewater channels with the appropriate grids and screens, and/or traps, to reduce the concentration of solids entering the drainage system.**

### **5.4 At no time should paddy husk, paddy ash or any other solid waste be disposed of in surrounding drains and/or waterways.**

### **5.5 Maintain drainage network to ensure the free flow of water from the compound which should be kept free of debris and/or vegetation.**

### **5.6 All effluent generated from the processing facility should be directed to the purification system as stated in the project summary.**

### **5.7 Wastewater treatment system must be operationalized within ninety days (90) days after the receipt of this Environmental Permit.**

### **5.8 Do not discharge untreated effluent directly into receiving waters. All effluent shall be treated to meet discharge limits set out in condition 5.2.**

### **5.9 Promote conservation of water resources by minimising water consumption as best as practicable.**



## **6.0 AIR QUALITY AND NOISE MANAGEMENT**

- 6.1 Adhere to the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Air Quality) Regulations, 2000 and the Environmental Protection (Noise Management) Regulations, 2000.**
- 6.2 Ensure all significant noise-producing equipment, e.g., generators, milling equipment, etc., are enclosed in suitable acoustic enclosures where necessary and the generator is fitted with appropriate silencers or mufflers to reduce noise levels impacting the surrounding environment to achieve compliance with the Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS) requirement.
- 6.3 Comply with the Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS) Guidelines for noise emission into the environment, not exceeding the limits below at a distance of 15m (50 ft) from the source or property boundary, whichever is closer.
- **Industrial Limits: 100 dB** (Day-time (08:00 h - 17:00 h).  
**80 dB** (Night-time 18:00 h – 6:00 h)
- 6.4 Ensure all equipment and machinery are placed on foundations properly designed to ensure effective damping of vibrations.
- 6.5 Conduct regular maintenance to ensure that all vents and openings are sealed around the milling and drying area in an effort to minimise/prevent escape of fugitive dust into the environment.
- 6.6 Implement all possible measures such as, ensuring equipment and machines are serviced and operated according to manufacturer's recommendations to minimise the impact of sound levels on the environment.
- 6.7 Monitor particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub> & PM<sub>10</sub>) on a **bi-annual basis** (once during the dry and once during the rainy season). The results of such monitoring must be submitted to the Agency as part of your **Annual Report**.
- 6.8 Comply with the World Health Organisation (WHO) *Air Quality Guidelines for Particulate Matter in the Environment*, not exceeding the limits below:

**PM<sub>2.5</sub>:** 10 µg/m<sup>3</sup> - annual mean  
25 µg/m<sup>3</sup> - 24-annual mean

**PM<sub>10</sub>:** 20 µg/m<sup>3</sup> - annual mean  
50 µg/m<sup>3</sup> - 24-annual mean

## **7.0 WASTE MANAGEMENT**

- 7.1 Adhere to the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Litter**

**Enforcement) Regulations, 2013, where applicable.**

- 7.2 Maintain good housekeeping, sanitary, hygienic practices, and the aesthetic quality of your surroundings at all times.
- 7.3 Covered garbage receptacles must be placed at strategic locations, both in and outside of the project site. Domestic waste should be separated and collected in these receptacles and disposed of in accordance to the measures outlined in your Project Summary, or at an approved waste disposal facility. Reuse, recycle and/ or compost waste materials as far as practical.
- 7.4 In the event that paddy husks/chaff accumulates on site, heaps shall be kept at a height not exceeding two (2) metres, unless otherwise directed by the Agency.
- 7.5 The Permit Holder shall ensure sufficient mitigation measures are employed to prevent the dispersion of paddy husks/chaff into the environment, failing which, he shall be liable under Section 19(1)(a) of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- Options for reuse of paddy husk and its impurities include:
    - Poultry bedding;
    - Landfill material (where practical); and
    - Fuel for furnaces to generate energy at the rice mill.
- 7.6 Open burning of solid waste on-site is **strictly prohibited**.
- 7.7 Maintain a septic tank system which should be accessible for cleaning and de-sludging. Any modification to the septic tank (s) must be in accordance with the Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS) *Code of Practice for the Design and Construction of Septic Tanks and Associated Secondary Treatment and Disposal Systems*.

**8.0 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS/WASTES MANAGEMENT**

- 8.1 Adhere to the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Hazardous Waste Management) Regulations, 2000**.
- 8.2 There shall be no release of any pollutants such as fuels and waste oils to soils or surface from the permitted installation. Any accidental release of pollutants to soil or surface waters must be recorded and reported **within twenty-four (24) hours** to the Agency for further investigation.
- 8.3 Take the necessary precautionary measures such as the use of leak-proof containers







during the transport of fuel to the operation. Appropriate measures should also be taken during the handling and use of all Hazardous Wastes at the facility.

- 8.4 Waste oils should be stored in tightly covered drums or barrels to avoid spillage. It is an offence to drain fuel/lubricants including waste oils of any quantity from equipment onto the ground, in drains or water ways.
- 8.5 Promote the reuse of waste oil, for example, as lubricant for equipment, where practical.
- 8.6 Waste oils, used batteries, oily rags, filters and oil containers must be appropriately labelled, and stored in a containment bund with an impervious surface until such time for reuse or sale to an authorised dealer.
- 8.7 Ensure that an appropriate spill containment kit is located onsite. The kit should contain absorbent materials to absorb spilt oil and/or other liquids.

#### **9.0 COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND REPORTING**

- 9.1 Adhere to any lawful directions given by the EPA from time-to-time in furtherance of the implementation of any international or other obligation for the Environmental Protection of Guyana.
- 9.2 Monitor the implementation of the conditions of this Environmental Permit, insofar as they involve adherence by your employees and all third parties under your direction.
- 9.3 Submit to the EPA, the **Environmental Annual Reports** on the status of the project, progress of the implementation of the monitoring activities and compliance with the conditions contained herein by **March 31** every year (Please see attached, the *Guidelines for the preparation of Environmental Annual Reports*).
- 9.4 Conform to all terms and conditions under which this Environmental Permit is granted and shall be liable for any loss or damage which arises from the project as a result of the Permit Holder's activities or breach of any term or condition of this Permit.
- 9.5 Inform the Agency prior to or **within thirty (30) days** of any change of name or ownership of the operation.

  
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- 9.6 Notify the Agency **within twenty-one (21) days** in event of death, bankruptcy, liquidation or receivership of the Permit Holder or if the Company becomes a party to an amalgamation.
- 9.7 Notify the EPA **within one (1) hour** of the occurrence of any environmental emergencies such as a sudden onset disaster, accident, natural, technological or human induced factors that cause or threaten to cause severe environmental damage as well as harm to human health or livelihood.
- 9.8 Report to the Agency of non-compliance with the Environmental Permit:
- 9.8.1 Within **twenty-four (24) hours** of the time the Holder of the Environmental Permit becomes aware of the non-compliance, the anticipated manner in which it may endanger human health or the environment.
  - 9.8.2 Within **seventy-two (72) hours**, submit to the Agency a written report containing a description of the non-compliance, its cause and the period of non-compliance including exact dates and time.
  - 9.8.3 Submit a report to the Agency indicating the reasons and the anticipated time it is expected to continue if the non-compliance has not been corrected.

#### **10.0 INSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY / LIABILITIES**

- 10.1 The Permit Holder shall be liable for any material environmental harm caused by polluting the environment, pursuant to s. 39 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 10.2 The Permit Holder shall be liable for any serious environmental harm caused by polluting the environment, pursuant to s. 39 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 10.3 The Permit Holder shall be liable for any activity that causes or is likely to cause pollution of the environment unless all reasonable and practicable measures are taken to prevent or minimise any resulting adverse effect, pursuant to s. 19 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 10.4 The Permit Holder shall be liable for discharging, causing or permitting the entry into the environment, of any contaminant in any amount, concentration or level excess



of that prescribed by the regulations or stipulated by this Environmental Permit, pursuant to s. 19 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.

- 10.5 The Permit Holder shall be liable to compensate any person who suffers any loss or damage as a result of the contravention of the conditions of this Environmental Permit, pursuant to s. 19 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 10.6 The Permit Holder shall not be indemnified by the Agency for any activity that causes or is likely to cause pollution to the environment, resulting from adverse effects through the discharge, any contaminant in any amount, concentration, ultra-hazardous substances, chemicals or otherwise, and shall be rendered liable to prosecution and to penalties prescribed under the Environmental Protection Act and Regulations.
- 10.7 The Permit Holder shall be liable of any gross negligence or willful misconduct caused by the Permit Holder, his Servants and/or Agents, to the environment, biodiversity, protected species and natural habitat with respect to any release, discharge, or spill, of contaminant fluids, oil or lubricants.
- 10.8 Should the Permit Holder contravene or be likely to contravene any condition of this Permit, the Agency (EPA) may serve on him an Enforcement Notice in accordance with Section 26 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 10.9 Where it appears to the Agency that the Permit Holder is engaged in any activity that may pose a serious threat to natural resources or the environment, or a risk of serious pollution of the environment or any damage to public health, the EPA may issue to the Permit Holder a Prohibition Notice, which may order him to immediately cease the offending activity, in accordance with Section 27 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 10.10 The EPA reserves the right to conduct regular inspections of the Permit Holder's activities as part of its monitoring and enforcement requirements under the Environmental Protection Act, Cap 20:05 and its regulations.
- 10.11 The Permit Holder, His Servants and/or Agents shall at all times, allow entry to the permitted facility to any Officer designated by the EPA for the purposes of conducting inspections or any other legitimate business of the Agency. Pursuant to Section 38 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, it is an offence to assault, obstruct or hinder an authorised person in the execution of his/her duty under the said Act or its Regulations and the Permit Holder shall be liable to penalties prescribed under paragraph (c) of the Fifth Schedule for doing so.
- 10.12 The EPA has the right to modify, cancel or suspend this Permit for breach of any of the terms and conditions contained herein.

- 10.13 **This Environmental Permit is not the final consent; all relevant Permissions should be obtained from other regulatory bodies for continued operation.**
- 10.14 This **Environmental Permit** is effective for the period stipulated herein, **November, 2024 to October, 2029.**
- 10.15 This **Environmental Permit** shall remain valid until **October 31, 2029**, unless otherwise suspended, cancelled, modified or varied, in accordance with the provisions of this Permit or the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana and the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000.
- 10.16 This **Environmental Permit** must be renewed by submitting a completed *Application Form for Renewal of Environmental Authorisation* to the Agency at least six (6) months before this Permit expires, that is, no later than **May 31, 2029.**
- 10.17 Any late submission of renewal application after the specified date as stated above, the agency may require the Permit Holder to pay, in addition to the renewal fee, a late penalty fee (accruing at the time such obligation was first owed for renewal) at a rate of **two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) per day for every business day late**, until such renewal application is submitted to the Agency, without prejudice to any other rights of the Permit Holder in connection therewith.
- 10.18 Failure to comply with the requirements of this Permit or with applicable laws and regulations, whether existing or forthcoming, shall render the Permit Holder liable to prosecution and to penalties, inclusive of civil penalties, injunctive relief and imprisonment, as prescribed under the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, the Environmental Protection Regulations and any other applicable Laws of Guyana.

Signed by *Kemraj Parsram* on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency.

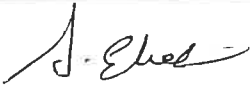


Date 2024.12.02


**Environmental Permit - Ref. No.: 20240704-EFGAP**

Issued under the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000.

**I hereby accept the above Terms and Conditions upon which this Environmental Permit is granted and agree to abide by the Environmental Protection Act, Cap.20:05, Laws of Guyana, the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, the Environmental Protection Regulations, 2000, and any forthcoming regulations and standards made under this Act.**

<b>NAME:</b>	Sherriann Elcock-Martin
<b>DESIGNATION:</b>	Chief of Staff
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	
<b>DATE:</b>	03/12/2024



03/12/2024 







## Environmental Protection Agency

Head Office - Ganges Street, Sophia, Georgetown, Guyana  
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File Copy

Date:

00041263

No. 29744

Received From: Essential Foods Group Inc.

The Sum of: Five Hundred Twenty Six thousand One \$ 526,125.00  
Hundred and Twenty-Five Dollars

For: Environmental Permit medium-operation of an agro-processing facility

PAID

Cash Cheques



Wire Transfer



Balance due

Amt. \$                     

Signature: T. Akai

(Nov. 2024 - Oct. 2029)

