



**Environmental
Protection
Agency**

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Operation 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.:	20200504 - SGLPP
Fees:	Small (C1) US\$500 (5 years) i.e. US\$100 per year
Fees Paid:	US\$500 (October, 2020 to September, 2025)

Addressee(s): Mr. Suraindra Gobin
Proprietor
S Gobin Saw Mill
553, Block 8 Tushen Housing Scheme
East Bank Essequibo.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Database Updated

J. Patterson 23/10/2020

Activity: Operation of a Sawmill

Mr. Suraindra Gobin, trading and operating under the name, S Gobin Saw Mill, 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 operate a Sawmill, located at Tract 'SG', Ameila's Ward, Right Bank Demerara River, Linden, Region 10, hereinafter referred to as the "Project", in a manner indicated in the Application submitted on May 04, 2020, 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.

Terms and Conditions for Operation to be adhered to by the Permit Holder, His Servants, Agents and/or Sub-Contractor(s):

1.0 OPERATION

- 1.1 Notify the Agency in writing of any proposed changes in operation of the Sawmill at least **fourteen (14) days before** making the change. The notification shall contain a **description of the proposed change in operation**. It is not necessary to make such a notification if an **Application to vary** this Permit has been made and the Application contains a description of the proposed change. In this condition '**change in operation**' means a change in the nature or

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functioning, or an extension, of the installation, which may have consequences for the environment, including but not limited to the following:

- i. Changes in construction, structure, layout of the facility;
 - ii. Installation of new and/or changes to equipment, machine, apparatus, mechanism, system or technology serving the facility or operation; and
 - iii. Any technology installed at the facility from which effluent may be discharged.
- 1.2 Ensure Fire Safety Certificate is renewed yearly and all firefighting equipment are maintained and serviced regularly. The Fire Safety Certificate should be submitted (a) on request, to Officers during Compliance Inspections and (b) in **Annual Reports**.
- 1.3 Provide adequate fire protection measures such as fire extinguishers and sand buckets in accordance with the Guyana Fire Service (GFS) approval.
- 1.4 Ensure that adequate provisions are in place for ingress to and egress from the site.
- 1.5 Maintain suitable storage facilities (racks and shelves) for all items. These facilities must be so organised that free and adequate passage is maintained. At all times ensure that there is no over-crowding of the Sawmill and over-stacking of lumber.
- 1.6 Maintain all internal access roads leading to the Sawmill. Fill in ruts and holes that develop during road use. Use a suitable material (such as compacted fill), and fill as soon as possible to reduce the potential for erosion.
- 1.7 Where the land surface has been disturbed during/after construction, expansion, modification or repair of the Sawmill or any portion of the Sawmill, the Permit Holder shall reclaim/rehabilitate the surface of unused land to equivalent capability.
- 1.8 Ensure that trucks are equipped with the necessary reflecting signage to warn the public of impending danger of parked/moving trucks with logs on the public thoroughfare.
- 1.9 Ensure that the transportation of logs and lumber to and from your operation does not impede road traffic. Logs and lumber must be contained within the boundaries of the project site.
- 1.10 Loading and offloading of lumber and logs shall take place between **06:00 h to 18:00 h** to avoid disturbance to residents.
- 1.11 Discharge logs safely through the use of appropriate equipment i.e. log extractor at the Sawmill to ensure logs do not free fall from haulers to the ground causing vibration and excessive damage to soils and/or on vegetation.

2.0 EMPLOYEES AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 2.1 All employees must be equipped with and trained in the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) to fit their job specification such as: chaps for chainsaw operators, hi-visibility vests, respirator, hard hats, gloves, and appropriate footwear and ensure appropriate utilisation of these gears. A log for the distribution of Personal Protective Equipment to employees must be maintained. Evidence of distribution log must be presented to officer of the Agency upon request during compliance inspections.
- 2.2 A first aid equipped according to the Guyana Red Cross standards must be located on site at times. First aid kit should include a snake bite kit. Additionally, communication and transportation systems must be in place to respond to emergencies.
- 2.3 All employees must be trained in the use of fire extinguishers and firefighting protocols.
- 2.4 Make all employees/third party contractors aware of the Conditions of this Operation Permit and provide training on good environmental management practices. Prepare and maintain a training file for employees which should be available upon Officers' request during Compliance Inspections.

3.0 WASTE MANAGEMENT

- 3.1 Maintain good housekeeping, sanitary and hygienic practices, and the aesthetic quality of your surroundings at all times.
- 3.2 Ensure effective management of recoverable materials and all waste generated by the project is in accordance with the EP Act, Cap 20:05 part V s. 19(1)(2)(3)(4): s. 20(1)(2).
- 3.3 Promote proper solid waste management practices at Project site. Covered garbage receptacles must be placed at strategic locations, both in and outside of sawmill. All solid waste collected in these receptacles must be disposed of at an approved waste disposal facility. Reuse, recycle and/ or compost waste materials as far as practical.
- 3.4 Construct and maintain a dust containment bin with the capacity to store approximately seventy-five (75%) percent of all wood waste (sawdust and shavings, etc.) generated during a typical milling season/ year.
- 3.5 For mills that are not equipped to be attached to an extractor system collect/bag and remove sawdust from the mill floor in a timely manner. Sawdust should not be allowed to accumulate to more than 15 cm (6 inches) on the mill floor at any given time.

- 3.6 Maintain the dust extraction system to ensure there is no escape of fugitive dust and employ wet suppression methods such as sprinklers where suitable on the premises to control fugitive dust.
- 3.7 Dispose of any additional unused sawdust, wood shaving, wood ends and any other solid waste at an approved waste disposal site. In event that sawdust, wood shaving and/ or wood ends accumulate on site, it must be placed in heaps not exceeding two (2) meters high.
- 3.7.1 Options for reuse include but are not limited to:
- a. Poultry Bedding.
 - b. Mulching.
- 3.8 Ensure that the wood waste removed from the containment bin is placed in large polystyrene bags and tightly secured before disposal at an approved waste disposal site.
- 3.8.1 Waste Management Records including Disposal Manifest (information with regards to time, quantity and method of disposal, Disposal Company used and site of Disposal) must be included in the Annual Report.
- 3.8.2 The Manifest should be used for every disposal activity and should be signed by Disposal Site Managers and the Disposal Company Manager.
- 3.9 Maintain a septic tank system at all times 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*.

4.0 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS/WASTE MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 Comply with the provisions of the Environmental Protection (Hazardous Waste Management) Regulations, 2000 as follows:
- 4.1.1 There shall be no release of any pollutants (i.e. fuel, waste oil, wood preservatives) to ground water or soil from the permitted installation. Any accidental release of pollutants to soil and/or ground water must be recorded and reported **within twenty-four (24) hours** to the Agency for further investigation.
- 4.1.2 Take the necessary precautionary measures, such as, leak-proofing of containers used for the transport of fuel to Project site. Appropriate measures should also be taken during the handling and use of all

Hazardous Waste at Project site.

- 4.1.3 Store waste oil 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, drains or in waterways.
- 4.1.4 Promote the reuse of waste oil, for example, as lubricant for equipment, where practical.
- 4.1.5 Label all waste oil, used batteries, oily rags, filters and oil containers, and store them in a containment bund with an impervious surface until reuse or sale to an authorised dealer.

5.0 AIR QUALITY AND NOISE MANAGEMENT

- 5.1 Comply with the provisions of the Environmental Protection (Air Quality) Regulations, 2000 and the Environmental Protection (Noise Management) Regulations, 2000.
- 5.2 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 (06:00 h - 18:00 h))

- 5.3 Ensure that all sound-making devices, e.g. generators are suitably enclosed in structures constructed with materials of good noise insulation properties (e.g. hollow concrete blocks, insulation boards, solid clay bricks) and are equipped with silencers or mufflers to reduce the noise level.
- 5.4 Ensure all equipment and machinery are placed on foundations properly designed to ensure effective damping of vibrations.
- 5.5 Implement all possible measures such as, ensuring equipment is serviced and operated according to manufacturer's recommendations to minimise the impact of sound levels on the environment.
- 5.6 Take all reasonable precautions to prevent wood dust from becoming airborne.
- 5.7 Maintain vegetative buffers at the perimeter of the project site to aid in the attenuation of fugitive noise and dust and to improve the aesthetic quality of the surroundings.

6.0 COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND REPORTING

- 6.1 Comply with 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.
- 6.2 Monitor the implementation of the conditions of this Operation Permit, insofar as they involve adherence by your employees and all third parties under your direction.
- 6.3 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*).
- 6.4 Conform to all terms and conditions under which this Operation 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.
- 6.5 Inform the Agency prior to or **within thirty (30) days** of any change of name or ownership of the operation.
- 6.6 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.
- 6.7 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.
- 6.8 Report to the Agency any non-compliance with the Operation Permit:
 - 6.8.1 Within **twenty-four (24) hours** of the time the Holder of the Operation Permit becomes aware of the non-compliance, the anticipated manner in which it may endanger human health or the environment.
 - 6.8.2 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.
 - 6.8.3 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.

7.0 INSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY/LIABILITIES


- 7.1 The EPA reserves the right to conduct regular inspections of the Permit Holder's operation as part of its monitoring and enforcement requirements under the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection Regulations, 2000.
- 7.2 The EPA reserves the right to review and/or amend the conditions and fees attached to this Permit, which also includes the review and/or amendment of Permit Fees in consideration of any changes in fee structure as determined by the Agency for projects of this nature.
- 7.3 The EPA shall have the right to cancel or suspend this Permit for breach of any of the terms and conditions contained herein.
- 7.4 The Permit Holder, his servants, agents and/or sub-contractor(s) 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 s.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.
- 7.5 This Operation Permit is not the final consent; all relevant permission should be obtained from other regulatory bodies for continued operation.
- 7.6 The Permit Holder shall compensate any Party who suffers any loss or damage as a result of the attributed Project (Part V, s. 19 (3)(e)) EP Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 7.7 The Agency (EPA) shall notify the Permit Holder immediately of any written claim or notice sent by any complainant seeking loss or damage for negligence as a result of the Permit Holder's lack of due care and diligence.
- 7.8 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 marine environment, biodiversity, protected species and natural habitat with respect to any release or discharge, spill, contaminant fluids, oil or lubricants from the fuel storage.
- 7.9 Where it appears to the Agency that the Permit Holder is engaged in any activity that may pose serious threat to natural resources or serious pollution of the Environment or any damage to public health, issue to the Permit Holder a Prohibition Notice Order to immediately cease the offending activity. S 27 EP Act,

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Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.

- 7.10 Should the Permit Holder contravene or is likely to contravene any condition of this Permit, the Agency (EPA) may serve on him an Enforcement Notice in accordance with s. 26 of the EP Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 7.11 This Operation Permit is effective for the period stipulated herein **October, 2020 to September, 2025**. This Operation Permit shall remain valid until **September 30, 2025**, unless otherwise modified, cancelled, suspended or revoked in accordance with the provisions of this Permit or the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection Regulations, 2000.
- 7.12 This Permit must be renewed by submitting a completed *Application Form for Renewal of Environmental Authorisation* to the Agency at least six months before this Permit expires, that is, no later than **March 31, 2025**.
- 7.13 Any late submission of renewal application (s) after the specified date as stated above, shall require the Permit Holder to pay, in addition to renewal fee, a late penalty fee (accruing at the time such obligation was first owed for renewal) at a rate of **two thousand dollars (GY\$2000.00) per day** for every day late, until such renewal application is submitted to the Agency, without prejudice to any other rights of the Permit Holder in connection therewith.
- 7.14 Failure to comply with the requirements of this Permit shall render the Permit Holder liable to prosecution and to penalties prescribed under the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection Regulations, 2000, including civil penalties and injunctive relief.

Signed by  on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Ms. Sharifah Razack
Executive Director (Ag.)

Date 2020.10.17

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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 Operation 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.

NAME	<i>Susmita Jelin</i>
DESIGNATION	<i>Owner</i>
SIGNATURE	<i>Susmita Jelin</i>
DATE	<i>2020-10-21</i>



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