



**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.:	20190813-SMSLH
Fees:	Small (C1) US\$500 (5 years) i.e. US\$100 per year
Fees Paid:	US\$ 500 (August 2020 to July, 2025)

Addressee(s): Mr. Ravi Prasad  
R. Prasad Investments  
Track RC, Amelia's Ward,  
Industrial Site, Linden.



Activity: Operation of a Sawmill

Ravi Prasad, trading and operating under the name, R. Prasad Investments, 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 Regulations, 2000, to operate a Sawmill, located at Lot X-1053, Soesdyke-Linden Highway, hereinafter referred to as the "Project", in a manner indicated in the Application submitted on August 13, 2019, subject to the terms and conditions set forth herein under the Environmental Protection Act, any forthcoming regulations made under the said Environmental Protection 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:**

### 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

*RP* 18.09.2020

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 the 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 active 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 on vegetation etc.

## **2.0 EMPLOYEES**

- 2.1 Provide employees with the necessary protective equipment 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. Prepare and maintain a log of distribution of Personal Protective Equipment to employees.
- 2.2 Provide a well-equipped first aid including snake bite kits, at all work sites and ensure that communication and transportation systems are in place to respond to emergencies.
- 2.3 Ensure that all employees are trained in the use of the fire extinguisher and understand the firefighting protocol.
- 2.4 Make all employees/third party contractors aware of the Conditions of the 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 a Compliance Inspection.

## **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 in the operation. Provide covered garbage receptacles at strategic locations, both within and outside the Sawmill and ensure that all solid waste materials are appropriately stored until such time of disposal in the solid waste disposal pit. Reuse, recycle and 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.) 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 a designated landfill site. In event of sawdust, wood shaving and wood ends accumulating on site, ensure that heaps are kept at a height not exceeding two (2) metres at a designated site.

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 landfill/solid 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/WASTES 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 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 Construct a fuel containment bund with 110 percent containment capacity of the largest storage tank/container, which must have an impervious surface for the handling of all oils, lubricants and fuels.
- 4.1.4 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 water ways.
- 4.1.5 Promote the reuse of waste oil, for example, as lubricant for equipment, where practical.
- 4.1.6 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.
- 4.1.7 Where applicable, prepare and submit to the Agency no later than **forty-five (45) days** after the end of the operating year, a report relating to the activities for the previous year. The report shall include:
  - a) The identification information of the facility.
  - b) Type and quantities of hazardous waste generated.
  - c) Data concerning off-site shipments of waste.
  - d) Any applied treatment standards.
  - e) A summary of any accidents that may have occurred and any action taken.
  - f) Any waste minimisation efforts undertaken by the generator.
  - g) Any other matter the Agency may require.

The Agency considers all materials listed in Schedules I and II of the Environmental Protection (Hazardous Waste Management) Regulations, 2000, to be hazardous. Please see attached list of Hazardous Wastes to be controlled.

## **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 Reduce the release of fumes from generators to neighbouring residents by outfitting the generator with an exhaust stack of an appropriate height, preferably at 2 metres above the tallest building nearby.
- 5.7 Locate all emission sources (dust and fumes) in a manner to reduce impact on neighbouring residents.
- 5.8 Take all reasonable precautions to prevent wood dust from becoming airborne.
- 5.9 Maintain vegetative buffers at the perimeter of the project site to aid with 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 lease agreement from the Guyana Lands and Survey **within one (1) week** of issuance.
- 6.4 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*).
- 6.5 Conform to all terms and conditions under which this Operation Permit (Renewed) is granted and shall be liable for any loss or damage which arises from

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the project as a result of the Permit Holder's activities or breach of any term or condition of this Permit.

- 6.6 Inform the Agency prior to or **within thirty (30) days** of any change of name or ownership of the operation.
- 6.7 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.
- 6.8 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.
- 6.9 Report to the Agency of non-compliance with the Operation Permit:
  - 6.9.1 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.
  - 6.9.2 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.
  - 6.9.3 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 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

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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 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, 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 **August 2020 to July 2025**. This Operation Permit shall remain valid until **July 31, 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 **January 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

*RP* 18.09.2020 



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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  
Agency.



on behalf of the Environmental Protection

Date August 24, 2020

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	RAVI PRASAD
DESIGNATION	OWNER
SIGNATURE	R. Prasad
DATE	18.09.2020



A handwritten signature in black ink, located at the bottom right of the page.