



**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.:	20210111-SRTSS
Fees:	Small (C1) US\$100 per year
Fee Paid:	US\$500: Five (5) Years (May, 2021 to April, 2026)

Addressee(s): Mr. Ramesh Thakur,
Proprietor
R. Thakur and Son's Sawmill
40, Alliance No. 2 Canal,
West Bank Demerara.

Activity: To operate a Sawmill

Mr Ramesh Thakur, trading and operating under the name R. Thakur and Son's Sawmill 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 East Amelia's Ward, Industrial Site, Linden, hereinafter referred to as the "Project", in the manner indicated in the Application submitted on January 11, 2021, subject to the terms and conditions set forth herein under the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, 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.

The Permit Holder, His Servants, Agents and/or Sub-Contractors shall comply with the following Terms and Conditions for Operation:

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- 1.1 Notify the Agency in writing and obtain its approval for **ANY** proposed changes in the 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 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;
 - iii. Any technology installed at the facility from which effluent may be discharged; or
 - iv. Any other variance prescribed by Condition 20(3) of the Environmental Protection (Authorizations) Regulations.
- 1.2 Ensure that adequate provisions are in place for ingress to and egress from the Project site.
- 1.3 Where the land surface has been disturbed during/after construction, expansion, modification or repair of the operation or any portion of the operation, the Permit Holder shall reclaim/rehabilitate the surface of the land to its former state; except where it is not possible, the Permit Holder may reclaim and/or rehabilitate unused land to an equivalent standard.
- 1.4 Ensure that trucks are equipped with the necessary reflective signage to warn the public of impending danger of parked/moving trucks with logs on public thoroughfares.
- 1.5 Ensure that the transportation of logs and lumber to and from your Project site does not impede traffic on trail(s). Logs/lumber must be contained within the boundaries of the Project site.

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, high-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 officers of the Agency upon request during a compliance inspection, and a summary must be included in the **Environmental Annual Report**.

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- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 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, and a summary of such training must be included in the **Environmental Annual Report**.

3.0 ROADS

- 3.1 Maintain all active roads/trail (s) leading to and within the sawmill. Fill in ruts and holes that develop during roads/trails use. Use a suitable material (such as compacted fill), to fill as soon as possible to reduce the potential for erosion.

4.0 WASTE MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 Adhere to the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Litter Enforcement) Regulations, 2013**.
- 4.2 Promote proper solid waste management practices in the operation. Provide covered garbage receptacles at strategic locations of the concession and ensure that all solid waste materials are appropriately stored until the time of disposal in the solid waste disposal pit. Reuse, recycle and compost waste materials as far as practical.
- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 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.
- 4.5 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.

4.5.1 Options for reuse include but are not limited to:

- a. Composting.
- b. Mulching.

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- 4.6 At all times, the environs for receptacles should be cleaned and maintained on a regular basis, to prevent the fall or flow of garbage in the surrounding environment and/or attraction of rodents and other vermin.
- 4.7 The environs of the latrine should be kept clean, in a hygienic manner and maintained both internally and externally. Ensure the construction and maintenance of new or existing Ventilated Improved Pit (VIP) latrines comply with the following:
- i. Built with suitable materials such as hardwood or concrete materials and soil should be lined with at least 1.5 metres of clay/loam material to avoid leachate entering the ground water;
 - ii. Properly vented with a tall ventilation pipe located on the windward side;
 - iii. Fitted with a fly screen on top of the vent to prevent the passage of flies and mosquitoes (the meshed apertures (holes) of the fly screen must not exceed 1.5 millimeters, made with corrosion resistant material to withstand intense rainfall, high temperatures and strong sunlight);
 - iv. Positioned at least thirty (30) metres away from surface and ground water sources, creeks, wells or springs;
 - v. Dug at least 0.6 metres above the average ground water table and at least four (4) metres away from any dwelling (such as camps, and any sleeping and living quarters, etc.);
 - vi. Easily reached during bad weather and maintained to prevent odour; and
 - vii. Covered with at least 0.3 metres of soil when the maximum capacity is reached and a suitable site determined for another latrine.

5.0 AIR QUALITY AND NOISE MANAGEMENT

- 5.1 Adhere to 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 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. B.T

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- 5.4 Ensure that mechanical equipment and vehicles are regularly maintained and work at their optimal levels to minimise atmospheric emissions.

6.0 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS/WASTES MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 Adhere to the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Hazardous Wastes Management) Regulations 2000**.

- 6.2 There shall be no release of any pollutants (i.e. fuel, waste oil, wood preservatives) to ground water or soil from permitted installation. 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.

- 6.3 Take the necessary precautionary measures such as the use of leak-proof and tightly closed containers during the transport of fuel to the concession. Appropriate measures should also be taken during the handling and use of all Hazardous Waste at the concession.

- 6.4 Store waste oil in tightly covered plastic pails to avoid spillage. Where possible, ensure it is stored on an impervious surface. It is an offence to drain fuel/lubricants including waste oils of any quantity from equipment onto the ground, drains or water ways.

- 6.5 Promote the reuse of waste oil, for example lubrication of equipment, where practical.

- 6.6 Label and store before being reused or sold to an authorised dealer; waste oil, used batteries, oily rags, filters and oil containers, in a designated area with an impervious surface.

7.0 COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND REPORTING

- 7.1 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.

- 7.2 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.

- 7.3 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. *BT*

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- 7.4 Conform to all terms and conditions under which this Operation Permit is granted and the Permit Holder 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.
- 7.5 Inform the Agency prior to or **within thirty (30) days** of any change of name or ownership of the operation.
- 7.6 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.
- 7.7 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.
- 7.8 Report to the Agency any non-compliance(s) with the Operation Permit as follows:
 - 7.8.1 Within **twenty-four (24) hours** of the time the Permit Holder becomes aware of the non-compliance, the anticipated manner in which it may endanger human health or the environment.
 - 7.8.2 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.
 - 7.8.3 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.

8.0 INSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY/LIABILITIES

- 8.1 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.
- 8.2 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.

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8.3 The EPA shall have the right to cancel or suspend this Permit for breach of any of the terms and conditions contained herein.

8.4 The Permit Holder, his Servants, Agents and/or Sub-Contractors 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.

8.5 The Permit Holder, his Servants, Agents and/or Sub-Contractors while executing the activities attributable to the project shall be strictly jointly and severally liable as follows:

- a. For any activity that causes, or is likely to cause pollution of the environment, unless all reasonable and practicable measures were taken to prevent or minimise any resulting adverse effect, in accordance with Section 19(1)(a) of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- b. For any activity which results in the discharge, release or entry into the environment of any contaminant in any amount, concentration or level in excess of that prescribed by the regulations or stipulated by this Permit, in accordance with Section 19(1)(b) of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05 Laws of Guyana.
- c. The discharge or release of contaminants, such as wood waste, industrial chemicals, lubricants, fuel, chemicals, hazardous materials or other wastes relative to the Project, which are not regulated herein, or permitted to be discharged herein, are strictly prohibited. Any such discharge or release shall be deemed a violation of Section 19(1)(a) and/or Section 19(1)(b) of the Environmental Protection Act.
- d. For the compensation of any Party who suffers any loss or damage as a result of the project. (s.19(3)(e)) Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- e. For any material or serious environmental harm caused by pollution of the environment intentionally or recklessly in accordance with section 39 (1), (2), (3) and (4) of the Environmental Protection Act, 20:05, Laws of Guyana. B.T

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- f. Any gross negligence or willful misconduct resulting in serious risk, or adverse effects to the marine environment, biodiversity, protected species and natural habitat with respect to any release or discharge, spill, contaminant fluids, oil, or lubricants from any facilities permitted under this project.
 - g. For the payment of all costs and expenses related to the assessment of damage and investigations required, as result of any pollution incidents attributable or likely to be attributable to the activity for which this Permit has been issued.
- 8.6 This Operation Permit is not the final consent; all relevant permissions, approvals and supporting documentations must be obtained from other regulatory bodies for continued operation, and subsequently maintained.
- 8.7 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.
- 8.8 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, the EPA may issue to the Permit Holder a Prohibition Notice to immediately cease the offending activity, in accordance with Section 27 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 8.9 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 Section 26 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 8.10 This Operation Permit is effective for the period stipulated herein **May, 2021 to April, 2026**. This Operation Permit shall remain valid until **April 30, 2026**, 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.
- 8.11 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 **October 30, 2025**. B.T

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8.12 Any late submission of renewal application 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 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.

8.13 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 (a.g.)

Executive Director

Date 2021.05.18

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:	Bibi S. Thakur
DESIGNATION:	Col Ower
SIGNATURE:	Bibi S. Thakur For Ramest Thakur
DATE:	01.03.2022

