



## 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.:	20210127-LGKKW
Fee:	Small (C1) –US\$100 per year
Fee Paid	US\$300 (April, 2021 to March, 2024)

Addressee(s): Mr Linden Duncan,  
Secretary,  
Ituni Loggers Co-operative Society Limited  
Ituni District,  
Upper Demerara River.



Activity: To Undertake Logging and Chainsaw milling within SFA  
Dem 19 /08

Ituni Loggers Co-operative Society Limited, 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 undertake Logging and chainsaw milling within SFA Dem 19/08, situated at Right Bank Demerara River, Left Bank & Right Bank Kurua River Right Bank Warabaru Creek Left Bank Kurukaikuru Creek , hereinafter referred to as the “Project”, in a manner indicated in the Application submitted on January 27, 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 and/or Agents shall comply with the following Terms and Conditions for Operation:

### 1.0 OPERATION

- 1.1 Notify the Agency in writing and obtain its approval for ANY proposed changes in operation of the Logging and chainsaw milling operation 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 used or installed at the facility from which effluent may be emitted from; and
  - IV. Any other variance prescribed by Regulation 20(3) of the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations.
- 1.2 Submit to the Agency the renewed State Forest Authorisation within the first year of the issuance of this Operation Permit; failing which, the EPA reserves the right to order the cessation of all activities at the Project site
  - 1.3 Construct camps, log pond and skid trail (s) in the manner specified in the Guyana Forestry Commission’s Guidelines for Forest Operations, 2018.
  - 1.4 Provide adequate fire protection measures such as fire extinguishers and sand buckets in accordance with the Guyana Fire Service’s (GFS) approval.
  - 1.5 Ensure that adequate provisions are in place for ingress to and egress from the site.
  - 1.6 Maintain the active trail (s) 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 operation or any portion of the operation, 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 do not impede traffic on the trail. Logs and lumber must be contained within the boundaries of the project site.
- 1.10 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 vegetation.
- 1.11 Prohibit the hunting, trapping and trading of endangered and locally protected wildlife species, in keeping with the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act, 2016, and any other associated Regulations. Further, ensure that the prohibition of capture, trading and removal of wildlife be a term of employment for all third party contractors and/or employees.
- 1.12 Undertake removal of trees and vegetation in areas where only absolutely necessary.
- 1.13 Not indiscriminately spray pesticides and/or weedicides both within and around the premises.

## **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 a compliance inspection.
- 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 a Compliance Inspection.

### **3.0 WASTE MANAGEMENT**

#### **Comply with the provisions of the Environmental Protection (Litter Enforcement) Regulations, 2013, where applicable.**

- 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 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.
- 3.5 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.
- 3.6 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.
  - 3.6.1 Options for reuse include but are not limited to:
    - a. Poultry Bedding.
    - b. Mulching.
- 3.7 **Construct/maintain new or existing latrine(s)** according to the following requirements: The environs of the **latrine(s)** should be kept clean, in a hygienic manner and maintained both internally and externally. The latrines should be:
  - Built with suitable materials such as hardwood or concrete materials;
  - Constructed on clay mound to prevent surface water from entering;
  - Properly vented with a tall ventilation pipe located on the windward side;



- 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 millimetres, made with corrosion resistant material to withstand intense rainfall, high temperatures and strong sunlight;
- Positioned at least thirty (30) metres away from surface and ground water sources, creeks, wells or springs;
- Dug at least 0.6 metres above the average water table and at least four (4) metres away from any dwelling (such as camps, residential areas and any sleeping and living quarters, etc.);
- Easily reached during bad weather and will not cause odour; and
- When the maximum capacity is reached **latrine(s)** should be covered with at least 0.3 metres of soil and a suitable site determined for another.

#### **4.0 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS/WASTE MANAGEMENT**

##### **4.1 Adhere to the provisions of the Environmental Protection (Hazardous Wastes 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 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 Store all fuel away from ignition sources and have **'No Smoking'** signs posted where fuel is handled or stored.
- 4.1.3 Refrain from draining fuel/lubricants including waste oils of any quantity from equipment onto the ground or into waterways.
- 4.1.4 The following items should be appropriately labeled and stored in a bunded area constructed of impervious materials: waste oils, used batteries, oily rags, and oil containers. Waste oils and used batteries where practicable should be reused or sold to an authorized dealer.
- 4.1.5 Construct a fuel containment bund for the fuel storage tank. The containment bund must have the capacity to store 110% of the volume of fuel stored in the tank.
- 4.1.6 Store all used/waste oil used as preservatives at least 100 m away from water course.

- 4.1.7 Take the necessary precautionary measures such as the use of leak-proof and tightly closed containers during the transport of fuels to the Sawmill. Appropriate measures should also be taken during the handling and use of all Hazardous Waste at the Sawmill.
- 4.1.8 Store waste oil in tightly covered drums or barrels to avoid spillage. It is considered an offence under Section 19(1)(a) of the Environmental Protection Act and contrary to the Environmental Protection (Water Quality) Regulations, to drain fuel/lubricants including waste oils of any quantity from equipment onto the ground, drains or in water ways.
- 4.1.9 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.
- 4.1.10 Promote the reuse of waste oil, for example lubrication of equipment, where practicable.
- 4.1.11 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 Adhere to 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 100dB** (Day-time (06:00 h - 18:00 h))

5.3 Ensure that all sound-making devices, e.g. generators, planers, etc. 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 manufactures' recommendations to minimise the impact of sound levels on the environment.

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

5.7 Take all reasonable precautions to prevent wood dust from becoming airborne.

5.8 Establish and maintain vegetative buffers at the perimeter of the Sawmill 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 Notify the EPA **within twenty-four (24) hours** of the occurrence of any environmental emergencies.

6.2 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.

- 6.3 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.
- 6.4 Submit to the EPA **Environmental Annual Report** 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.
- 6.5 Conform to all terms and conditions under which this Operation Permit is granted. The Permit Holder, His Agents, and/or Sub-contractors shall be liable for any loss or damage which arises from the project as a result of the activities attributable to the project 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 any non-compliance(s) with the Operation Permit as follows:
- 6.9.1 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.
- 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 (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000.
- 7.2 The EPA reserves the right to review and/or amend the permit 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 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.
- 7.5 This Operation Permit is not the final consent; all relevant permissions should be obtained and maintained from other regulatory bodies for continued operation.
- 7.6 The Permit Holder, his Servants, Agents and/or Sub-Contractors 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 sludge, wastewater, hydraulic fluids, 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.
- f. Any gross negligence or wilful 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.

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 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 Order to immediately cease the offending activity in accordance with Section 27 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana).

7.9 Should the Permit Holder contravene or is likely to contravene any condition of this Permit, the Agency (EPA) may serve him an Enforcement Notice in accordance with Section 26 of the EP Act, Cap.20:05, Laws of Guyana.

**Operation Permit - Ref. No.: 20210127-LGKKW**

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.

- 7.10 This **Operation Permit** is effective for the period stipulated herein, **May, 2021 to April, 2024**. This **Operation Permit** shall remain valid until **April 30, 2024**, 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 (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000.
- 7.11 This **Operation 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 **October 30, 2023**.
- 7.12 Any late submission of renewal application after the specified date as stated above, shall 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.
- 7.13 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)

Date 2021-05-21

**Operation Permit - Ref. No.: 20210127-LGKKW**

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, best practices, guidelines and standards made under this Act.

NAME:	LINDEN DUNCAN
DESIGNATION:	SECRETARY
SIGNATURE:	
DATE:	10/05/2022

