



**Environmental
Protection
Agency**

Ganges Street, Sophia,
Georgetown, GUYANA
Tel.: (592) 225-0506
Fax: (592) 225-5481
Email: epa@epaguyana.org
Website: <http://www.epaguyana.org>

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.:	20200929-LSSML
Fee:	Low (C2) i.e. US\$175 per year
Fee Paid:	US\$875 for Five (5) Years (November 2021 – September, 2026)
Addressee:	Ms. Latchmin Shivanth, Proprietor Spectrum Medical Laboratory 17 B, New Road Vreed-En-Hoop West Coast Demerara <div data-bbox="1060 688 1498 867"></div>
Activity:	Operation of a Medical Laboratory

Spectrum Medical Laboratory, hereinafter referred to as the “Permit Holder”, is hereby authorised in accordance with the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000, to Operate the Medical Laboratory at 17 B, New Road, Vreed-En-Hoop, West Coast Demerara, hereinafter referred to as the “Project”, in a manner indicated in the Application for Environmental Authorisation submitted on September 29, 2020, and subject to the terms and conditions set forth herein under the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, existing and/or forthcoming Regulations made under the said Act, and/or any applicable laws, guidelines, best practices and standards relevant to this project.

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

1.0 OPERATION

- 1.1 Adhere to the requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Act, Cap. 99:01, Laws of Guyana.
- 1.2 Make an application to the Agency to vary this 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
 - iv. effect any other change outlined in 20(3) of the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations.
- 1.3 **The Permit Holder is required to submit to the EPA upon receipt, the requisite approvals from the Central Housing and Planning Authority (CH&PA), Ministry of Health, the relevant Municipality or any other authority with jurisdiction and oversight over the Project.**
- 1.4 A register of the types and quantities of laboratory chemicals managed at the Project shall be established and maintained. The registered information shall be summarized and shall be submitted to the Agency as a component of the **Annual Report**.
- 1.5 Laboratory chemicals shall be stored in accordance with the manufacturer's directions or Safety Data Sheet (SDS) instructions.
- 1.6 Safety Data Sheets for all laboratory chemicals shall be readily available and easily accessible at all times at the Project.
- 1.7 An **Emergency Response Plan (ERP)** for the Project shall be developed and submitted to the EPA by **November 30, 2021**. The Plan shall include, but not be limited to procedures for addressing all possible emergencies including spills and fires, local emergency response authorities, notification of national and local authorities, coordination of clean-up activities and assessment of health hazards to humans and the environment.
- 1.8 Emergency spill cleanup kits for medical laboratory spills of hazardous materials such a chemical reagents and bodily fluids shall be maintained at the facility for response to potential spills. Kits shall contain absorbent materials and other appropriate tools for clean-up. Spills should be cleaned-up by the Best Available Technology (BAT).
- 1.9 Obtain and maintain Guyana Fire Service Approval and submit a copy of the approval for the EPA's records.
- 1.10 Fire prevention and control equipment shall be maintained in accordance with this Guyana Fire Service Approval. This may include a smoke detection and alarm system, fire extinguishers, fire hydrants or sprinkler systems as appropriate.
- 1.11 Make all employees, and third parties under your direction, aware of the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation and provide training on good environmental practices. Annual training schedule shall be submitted in the **Annual Report**.
- 2.0 WATER QUALITY**
- 2.1 Adhere to the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Water Quality) Regulations, 2000**.

- 2.2 The direct discharge of untreated effluent including biohazardous waste such as bodily fluids, into the environment is **strictly prohibited**. ✓
- 2.3 Contaminated wastewater from the Project shall be treated/decontaminated using bleach or hypochlorite solution before discharge to the environment. ✓
- 2.4 Treated effluent from the Project shall be in accordance with the Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS) *Interim Guidelines for Industrial Effluent Discharge into the Environment*. The following allowable limits shall not be exceeded:

Parameter	Daily Maximum Concentration	Units
pH	5.0 – 9.0	mg/L
Temperature	40	°C
BOD	<50	mg/L
COD	<250	mg/L
TSS	<50	mg/L
Coliform	<400	MPN per 100mL

- 2.5 Sampling of the above-mentioned parameters and its frequency shall be determined by the Permit Holder and shall be collected at the point of final discharge from the Project site, results shall be submitted to the EPA.
- 2.6 Excessive or inappropriate use of cleaning chemicals shall be avoided. Use of biodegradable/water-based cleaning products is encouraged.
- 2.7 Drainage systems shall be maintained to handle the probable maximum precipitation storm event.

3.0 WASTE MANAGEMENT

- 3.1 In accordance with the **Environmental Protection (Litter Enforcement) Regulations, 2013**, promote good sanitation and solid waste disposal practices on site. Covered garbage receptacles shall be placed upon impervious base at strategic locations, both within and outside facility.
- 3.2 Non-hazardous solid waste shall not be burnt at the Project. All solid waste shall be disposed by an EPA Authorised Waste Disposal Company.



3.3 Good house-keeping, sanitary, and hygienic practices shall be maintained at all times. The facility's drains and surroundings shall be kept free of vegetation and litter.

3.4 Solid waste receptacles shall be secured when not in use.

3.5 Waste collection areas shall be kept clean. Dry methods shall be used when cleaning around waste handling and disposal areas (e.g. sweeping, use of absorbents).

4.0 BIO-HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

4.1 Adhere to the provisions of the Environmental Protection (**Hazardous Waste Management**) Regulations, 2000.

4.2 All waste mixed or contaminated with medical waste shall be treated as bio-hazardous waste.

4.3 An Occupational Safety, Health and Environmental Management Training Schedule for staff involved in the collection, storage and handling of bio-hazardous waste shall be established and submitted to the EPA for approval by **October 31, 2021**.

4.4 Bio-hazardous wastes shall be identified and segregated according to category, at the point of generation.

4.5 Bio-hazardous wastes must be properly labeled and color coded. Labeling can include words such as "Infectious Substances", "Bio Hazardous Waste" and "Bio Hazard".

4.6 Putrescible medical waste shall be refrigerated at 40 °F (4° C) or below.

4.7 Disposal of sharps shall **NOT** incorporate cutting, breaking, bending or any other manipulation.

4.8 Staff shall not wash/clean sharps before disposal.

4.9 Used sharps shall be placed in containers that meet the following requirements:

- i. Rigid;
- ii. Puncture resistant;
- iii. Impervious to moisture, leak and shatter proof;
- iv. Displays the universal bio-hazard symbols and a clear label of its contents; and
- v. Can be sealed, preferably with a self-closing lid and/or a lid that prevents persons removing sharps from the container.

4.10 Color coding shall be done using the following specifications:



Waste Type	Color Coding
Human Anatomical	Red
Animal Waste	Red
Blood and Bodily Fluids	Red
Waste Sharps	Red
Microbiological Laboratory Waste	Red

- 4.11 The use of mercury based medical devices (e.g. thermometers and blood pressure devices) should be avoided and replaced with digital alternatives. In instances where mercury waste is generated, the waste should be segregated for disposal.
- 4.12 A Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for disposal of expired and recalled drugs shall be established and submitted to the EPA for approval by **October 31, 2021**.
- 4.13 All expired and recalled drugs shall be disposed in accordance with the EPA approved SOP outlined in **condition 4.12**.
- 4.14 Each disposal of expired and recalled drugs shall be recorded on a Waste Manifest Form and shall be submitted as a component of the **Annual Report**.
- 4.15 Bio-hazardous waste containers must adhere to the following particulars of appropriate labeling:
- i. Name (location);
 - ii. Date;
 - iii. Type of Waste;
 - iv. List of Content; and
 - v. Quantity.

Storage of Bio-hazardous waste shall **not exceed thirty (30) days**. The thirty-day period commences when the first item is placed into the designated storage container.

- 4.16 All bio-hazardous wastes shall be collected, treated and disposed of by an EPA authorised waste disposal facility. Bio-hazardous waste treatment and disposal shall be documented on a **Waste Manifest Form** which must be submitted to the EPA as a component of the **Annual Report**.

5.0 COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND REPORTING

- 5.1 Notify the Environmental Protection Agency **within one (1) hour** of the occurrence of any environmental emergencies (e.g. oil spills, biohazardous materials/wastes spill, sudden onset disaster, natural, technological or human-induced factors that cause or threaten to cause severe environmental damage as well as harm to human health or livelihood).
- 5.2 Monitor the implementation of the conditions of this Permit, insofar as they involve adherence by your employees and all third parties under your direction.



- 5.3 Notify the Agency in writing of any change of name or ownership of the Permit Holder's facility within **thirty (30) days** after the change occurs.
- 5.4 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.
- 5.5 Maintain and submit to the Agency records of the type, composition and quantity of contaminant released (i.e. any solid, liquid, gas, odour, sound, vibration, radiation, heat or combination of any of them).
- 5.6 Submit an **Annual Report** to the EPA on your compliance with this Permit on or before **March 31, each year**.
- 5.7 Report to the Agency any non-compliance(s) with the Environmental Permit:
 - i. Within **twenty-four (24) hours** of the time the Holder of the Environmental Permit becomes aware of the non-compliance outlining the anticipated manner in which human health or the environment may be impacted.
 - ii. Within **seventy-two (72) hours** of the time the Holder of the Environmental Permit becomes aware of the non-compliance, submit to the Agency a written report containing a description of the non-compliance, its cause, the period of non-compliance including exact dates and time and the anticipated time it is expected to continue if the non-compliance(s) has not been corrected.
- 5.8 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.
- 5.9 It is the responsibility of the Permit Holder to ensure the permitted activity and premises are secured and that all practicable steps necessary to prevent fires, explosions, leaks or suspected leaks and spills at the permitted premises are taken.

6.0 INSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY/ LIABILITIES

- 6.1 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, the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection Regulations, 2000.
- 6.2 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.
- 6.3 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.

- 6.4 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 minimize any resulting adverse effect, pursuant to s. 19 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 6.5 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 in 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.
- 6.6 The Permit Holder shall be liable to compensate any person who suffers any loss or damage as a result of contravening conditions 7.3 and 7.4 of this Environmental Permit, pursuant to s. 19 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 6.7 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.
- 6.8 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 environment, biodiversity, protected species and natural habitat with respect to any release, discharge, or spill, of contaminant fluids, oil or lubricants.
- 6.9 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.
- 6.10 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.
- 6.11 The EPA reserves the right to conduct regular inspections of the Permit Holder's construction activities as part of its monitoring and enforcement requirements under the Environmental Protection Act, Cap 20:05, and the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000.



- 6.12 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.
- 6.13 The EPA has the right to modify, cancel or suspend this Permit for breach of any of the terms and conditions contained herein.
- 6.14 This Environmental Permit is not the final consent; all relevant **Permissions should be obtained from other regulatory bodies for continued operation.**
- 6.15 This Environmental Permit is effective for the period stipulated herein; **November 2021 to October, 2026.**
- 6.16 This Environmental Permit shall remain valid until **October 31, 2026**, 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, Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000.
- 6.17 This Permit must be renewed by submitting a completed *Application Form for Renewal of Environmental Authorization* to the Agency at least six months before this Permit expires, that is, no later than **April 30, 2026.**
- 6.18 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 (GY\$2000.00) 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.
- 6.19 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 other applicable.


Signed by  on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Mr. Kemraj Parsram
Executive Director

Date

2021. 11. 09

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, the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000, and any existing or forthcoming regulations, guidelines, best practices and standards made under this Act.

NAME:	LATCHMIN SHIVNATH
DATE:	18/11/2021
SIGNATURE:	
DESIGNATION:	LABORATORY MANAGER

