



**Environmental
Protection
Agency**

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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.:	20171010- MACLH
Fee:	Medium (C1) i.e., US\$500 per year
Fee Paid:	US\$2500 for Five (5) years (December 2021 – November 2026)
Addressee:	Ms. Fazeela Salim Administrator Medical Arts Centre Limited 265 Thomas Street North Cummingsburg Georgetown
Activity:	Operation of a Medical Centre

Medical Arts Centre Limited, hereinafter referred to as the “Permit Holder”, is hereby authorised in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act, Cap 20:05, Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000, to Operate the Medical Centre at 265, Thomas Street, North Cummingsburg, Georgetown, hereinafter referred to as the “Project”, in a manner indicated in the Application for Environmental Authorisation submitted on October 10, 2017, 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.

This is a Modification of the Environmental Permit Reference Number 20171010-MACLH, issued on December 2021 and will expire on November 2026.

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 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.
- 1.2 **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.**
- 1.3 Adhere to the requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Act, Cap. 99:01, Laws of Guyana.
- 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 submitted to the EPA upon request.
- 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 Emergency spill clean-up kits shall be readily available, clearly identified and maintained at the Project for response to spills. Kits must contain absorbent materials, drain seals and other appropriate tools for clean-up.
- 1.8 All significant noise-producing equipment, such as generators, shall be equipped with silencers or mufflers and/or be enclosed in suitable acoustic enclosures where necessary; to reduce noise levels impacting the surrounding environment to achieve compliance with Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS) requirement.
- 1.9 An **Emergency Response Plan (ERP)** shall be maintained at the Project. The Plan shall include but not 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 human and the environment.
- 1.10 Obtain and maintain Guyana Fire Service Approval and submit a copy of the approval for the EPA's records.
- 1.11 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.

2.0 STORAGE AND USE OF RADIOACTIVE DEVICES

- 2.1 Adhere to “**Part IV Diagnostic Imaging Facilities**” of Guyana’s Health Facilities Regulations.
- 2.2 Maintain a consistent power supply. An uninterruptible power supply or battery backup system shall be installed to gather active information during an outage and regulate the shutdown of any software.
- 2.3 Signs and warning lights shall be positioned at eye level and placed at the entrances of controlled and supervised areas to prevent inadvertent entry to radioactive storage areas.
- 2.4 The X-ray room shall be set up to avoid the direct incidence of the X-ray beam on the access doors.
- 2.5 The doors to radiography rooms shall provide protective shielding for Secondary Radiation.
- 2.6 The access doors shall be closed when the X-ray beam is on.
- 2.7 Personnel using or responsible for the use of the X-ray equipment shall have prescribed qualifications and/or training.

3.0 BIO-HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

- 3.1 Adhere to the provisions of the Environmental Protection (**Hazardous Waste Management**) Regulations, 2000.
- 3.2 All waste mixed or contaminated with medical waste shall be treated as bio-hazardous.
- 3.3 A register of the types and quantities of bio-hazardous waste accepted and stored onsite shall be established and maintained. The registered information shall be maintained and made available to the EPA upon request.
- 3.4 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the safe handling of bio-hazardous waste including the maintenance and filling of storage containers shall be maintained. The SOP must be made available to the EPA upon request.
- 3.5 All employees shall be trained on these SOPs outlined in **condition 3.4**. Records of training conducted must be made available to the EPA upon request.
- 3.6 Bio-hazardous waste shall be segregated at the point of generation. Infectious and hazardous wastes should be segregated according to their respective category using a color-coded system.

- 3.7 Bio-hazardous waste containers must be properly labeled with the following:
- i. The word "Bio Hazardous Waste"
 - ii. The type of waste e.g. sharps
 - iii. Beginning accumulation date- The date when the container was first placed in the Hazardous Waste Storage Area. Should the hazardous waste container be reused, the date hazardous waste was first placed in the container shall be recorded on the container.
- 3.8 Putrescible medical waste shall be refrigerated at 40 °F (4° C) or below.
- 3.9 Disposal of sharps shall **NOT** incorporate cutting, breaking, cleaning, bending or any other manipulation.
- 3.10 Used sharps shall be placed in containers that meet the following requirements:
- i. Rigid;
 - ii. Puncture resistant;
 - iii. Impervious to moisture, leak, and shatterproof;
 - 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 from removing sharps from the container.
- 3.11 A storage area shall be provided for the storage of packaged hazardous waste. The following design and operation considerations should be implemented for the waste storage facility:
- i. The area should be located within the Hospital grounds and sized to hold the anticipated quantities of waste generated.
 - ii. The area must be secure and access restricted to authorised personnel only.
 - iii. "No Unauthorised Persons Allowed" signs and biohazard symbols must be posted on the facility.
 - iv. The area should have an impermeable floor, and designed to withstand cleaning/disinfection, without cracking, breaking or other damage which would prevent effective disinfection.
 - v. There should be no drains within the storage area which direct untreated effluent into the environment.
 - vi. The area should have easy access for waste collection vehicles.
 - vii. The area must be protected from contamination and contact with water, rain, wind, and animals. Measures should be taken to ensure the area does not become a breeding ground for vermin.
- 3.12 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.

- 3.13 The use of digital medical devices (e.g., thermometers and blood pressure devices) shall be given preference over mercury-based devices. In instances where mercury waste is generated, the waste shall be segregated for disposal as approved by the EPA.
- 3.14 Each disposal of expired and recalled drugs shall be recorded in a register and made available to the EPA upon request.
- 3.15 All bio-hazardous wastes shall be collected, treated, and disposed by a waste disposal facility operating with a valid Environmental Authorisation from the EPA.
- 3.16 Documents for the transportation, treatment, and disposal of bio-hazardous waste shall be maintained and shall include the signatures and designations of all persons handling the waste. All documents must be made available to the EPA upon request.

4.0 WATER QUALITY

- 4.1 Adhere to the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Water Quality) Regulations, 2000.**
- 4.2 Disposal of medical wastes that consist of human cultures that may contain infectious agents into the surrounding drainage system is **STRICTLY PROHIBITED.**
- 4.3 All wastewater to be discharged from the Laboratory shall be treated with a 10% bleach solution before discharge into the Georgetown sewage system. Discharge of wastewater into surface drainage is prohibited.
- 4.4 Only non-radioactive, decontaminated, non-infectious liquids that have been treated shall be disposed of into the Sewerage System.
- 4.5 Solid waste shall not be disposed of in the surface drain. All surrounding drains shall be maintained to ensure the free flow of water.
- 4.6 Adequately sloped interceptor drains shall be maintained to collect storm flow.

5.0 WASTE MANAGEMENT

- 5.1 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 bases at strategic locations, both within and outside the facility.
- 5.2 Solid waste shall not be burnt at the Project. All solid waste shall be disposed by an EPA Authorised Waste Disposal Company.

- 5.3 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.
- 5.4 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).

6.0 COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND REPORTING

- 6.1 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).
- 6.2 Monitor the implementation of the conditions of this Permit, insofar as they involve adherence by your employees and all third parties under your direction.
- 6.3 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**.
- 6.4 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.
- 6.5 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.
- 6.6 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).
- 6.7 Submit an **Annual Report** to the EPA on your compliance with this Permit on or before **March 31, each year**.
- 6.8 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.

- 6.9 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.
- 6.10 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.

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, the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection Regulations, 2000.
- 7.2 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.
- 7.3 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.
- 7.4 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.
- 7.5 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.
- 7.6 The Permit Holder shall be liable to compensate any person who suffers any loss or damage as a result of contravening conditions 7.4 and 7.5 of this Environmental Permit, pursuant to s. 19 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 7.7 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.

- 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 environment, biodiversity, protected species and natural habitat with respect to any release, discharge, or spill, of contaminant fluids, oil or lubricants.
- 7.9 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.
- 7.10 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.
- 7.11 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.
- 7.12 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.
- 7.13 The EPA has the right to modify, cancel or suspend this Permit for breach of any of the terms and conditions contained herein.
- 7.14 **This Environmental Permit is not the final consent; all relevant Permissions should be obtained from other regulatory bodies for continued operation.**
- 7.15 This Environmental Permit is effective for the period stipulated herein; **December 2021 to November, 2026.**
- 7.16 This Environmental Permit shall remain valid until **November 30, 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.

- 7.17 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 **May 31, 2026**.
- 7.18 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.
- 7.19 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 *Sharifah Lazack* on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency.
for **Kemraj Parsram**
Executive Director

Date *2024-04-12*

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:	HEWLEY BLANKET
DATE:	17 April 2024
SIGNATURE:	[Signature]
DESIGNATION:	Manager