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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

<b>Reference No.:</b>	20191212-GNICD	
Fee:	Medium (C2) - US\$800 per year	
Fee Paid:	US\$1,600 for Two (2) years -(June 2021 to May 2023)	
Addressee:	Mr. Ramgobin Ramkissoon,	
	Special Projects Manager	
	Guyana National Industrial Company Inc.	
	1-9 Lombard Street, Charlestown	
	Georgetown.	
Activity:	Storage of Hazardous Materials	

Guyana National Industrial Company Inc. hereinafter referred to as the "Permit Holder", is hereby authorised in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000, to Store Hazardous Materials at 1-9 Lombard Street, Charlestown, Georgetown hereinafter referred to as the "Project", in a manner indicated in the Application for Environmental Authorisation submitted on December 12, 2019, 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, His Servants, Agents and/or Sub- Contractors 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 the Storage of Hazardous Materials 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:

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- i. Changes in operation, structure, or layout of the facility and all associated buildings.
- ii. Installation of new and/or changes to equipment, machine, apparatus, mechanism, system or technology serving the facility.
- iii. Any technology used or installed at the facility from which effluent may be discharged.
- iv. Any other circumstance or condition prescribed by Regulation 20(3) of the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations.
- 1.2 The Permit Holder is hereby required to submit to the EPA, an updated **Agreement** of Lease of Land and Buildings for the Project, by September 30, 2021.
- 1.3 All employees and sub-contractors involved in the management of hazardous materials, including Forklift and Crane Operators, shall be trained annually on Hazardous Material Communication and Emergency Preparedness Response. The annual training schedule shall be submitted to the Agency as part of the **Annual Report.**
- 1.4 Employees shall be equipped with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) relevant to their occupational tasks at the operation. PPE should include but not necessarily be limited to:
  - i. Safety helmets
  - ii. Protective respiratory devices
  - iii. Safety boots with ankle support
  - iv. Gloves with reinforced palms and fingers
  - v. Non-snag outer clothing appropriate to the prevailing weather conditions and high-visibility clothing
  - vi. Eye protections such as tightly fitted safety goggles.
- 1.5 Containerized and non- containerized hazardous materials shall be stored in accordance with the manufacturer's directions or Safety Data Sheet (SDS) instructions.
- 1.6 Safety Data Sheets for all hazardous materials shall be readily available and easily accessible at all times at the Project.
- 1.7 The Project shall be clearly labeled, secured and well illuminated when not in use. The following warning signs shall be clearly posted:
  - i. Danger- Chemical Storage Area "Authorized Personnel Only"
  - ii. Read and Follow all label directions
  - iii. No Smoking
  - iv. No Eating or Drinking

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- 1.8 Emergency spill clean-up kits shall be maintained at the Project for response to spills. Kits must contain absorbent materials, drain seals and other appropriate tools for clean-up. Kits must be readily available and clearly identified at the Project.
- 1.9 A fully stocked first- aid kit shall be readily available at the Project.
- 1.10 A register of the quantities of hazardous materials stored at the Project shall be established and maintained. A summary of the registered information shall be submitted to the Agency as part of the **Annual Report**.
- 1.11 Guyana Fire Service Approval shall be maintained annually and shall be submitted as a component of the **Annual Report**.
- 1.12 The Project shall maintain fire prevention and control equipment in accordance with the Guyana Fire Service Approval. This may include a smoke detection and alarm system, fire extinguishers, fire hydrants or sprinkler systems as appropriate.
- 1.13 Third party contractor(s) utilised by the facility for transport of hazardous and non-hazardous materials shall be authorised by the EPA.
- 1.14 An Emergency Spill Response Procedure/Plan (ERP) shall be established and maintained. The Procedure shall include, but not be limited to 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.
- 1.15 The ERP shall be submitted to the EPA for approval by August 31, 2021.

### 2.0 CONTAINERIZED STORAGE OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

- 2.1 An area shall be segregated and designated for the storage of containers with hazardous materials. A perimeter fence, barrier or other mechanism shall be implemented to restrict access to this area.
- 2.2 All containers with hazardous materials shall be stored within this designated area within two (2) hours after being offloaded from vessels.
- 2.3 The storage area shall be secured with restricted access to unauthorised personnel.
- 2.4 The storage area shall be flat, drained and firm enough to prevent containers from sinking and leaning to one side or another.
- 2.5 Containers **shall not** be stored on damaged foundation.
- 2.6 Containers containing hazardous materials shall not be stacked higher than **two (2)** containers.

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- 2.7 Containers shall be stacked corner post to corner post to support maximum weight. The point of contact shall be flush and not off center.
- 2.8 Containers shall be placed orderly and shall allow for free passageways where the forklift trucks, authorized vehicles and pedestrians can maneuver easily.
- 2.9 Heavy machinery shall be parked on an impervious base.
- 2.10 Machinery shall **NOT** be parked on the Government Reserve.

## 3.0 NON- CONTAINERIZED STORAGE OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

- 3.1 Liquid hazardous materials shall be stored within secondary containment (bunded area) to minimise the spread/ release of spillage from the storage area. Secondary containment shall possess the following characteristics:
  - i. Capacity of the secondary containment facility shall be equal to 100% of the greatest volume of liquid stored within the largest storage container;
  - ii. Walls of the secondary containment facility shall be constructed of earth, steel, concrete or solid masonry. Cracks and seams shall be sealed to prevent leakage;
  - iii. Liners/flooring of secondary containment facility shall be constructed of asphalt or concrete and designed to withstand foreseeable loading conditions.
- 3.2 Hazardous materials shall be stored away from non-hazardous materials.
- 3.3 Hazardous materials shall be stored according to the following compatibility:
  - i. Acids separate from Caustics
  - ii. Acids separate from Bases
  - iii. Acids separate from Flammables
  - iv. Bases separate from Flammables,
  - v. Oxidizers separate from Compressed Flammable Gases
  - vi. Corrosives separate from Flammables
  - vii. Oxides separate from all other chemicals
  - viii. Organic reactives separate from inorganic reactives (metals)
  - ix. Any other stipulated standards for storage or segregation of hazardous materials.
- 3.4 Hazardous material containers shall be clearly labelled in accordance with the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling. The following must be evident:
  - i. Signal Word
  - ii. GHS Symbols- (Hazard Pictograms)
  - iii. Manufacturer Information

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- iv. Precautionary Statements/ First Aid
- v. Hazard Statements
- vi. Product Name or Identifiers
- 3.5 Flammable material shall be stored away from ignition sources. '**No Smoking**' signs shall be posted where such materials are handled and stored.
- 3.6 Hazardous materials stored in ton bags and totes shall:
  - i. Be protected from UV rays;
  - ii. Be covered to prevent exposure to dirt, dust, and moisture; and
  - iii. Not hang over the side of pallets used for stacking.
- 3.7 Hazardous materials stored within drums shall:
  - i. Be placed within bunded storage to ensure any leaks or spills are immediately contained;
  - ii. Be clearly marked with their contents, and any appropriate warning symbols;
  - iii. Have scheduled inspection to detect rust, leaks or other damage; and
  - iv. Remain covered to protect the integrity of your chemicals.
- 3.8 Hazardous materials stored within cans shall be tightly sealed and kept off the floor on pallets.
- 3.9 Hazardous materials **shall not** be stored on damaged, or inadequately secured racking or on damaged pallets.
- 3.10 Hazardous materials **shall not** be stored in passageways including forklift truck routes, other vehicle routes and pedestrian walkways on site.
- 3.11 The Project shall maintain adequate rain protection and ventilation for heat and smoke in the event of fire.
- 3.12 The Project shall maintain ventilation in accordance with one of the following:
  - i. Gravity ventilation to the outside with a capacity of one cubic foot per minute per square foot or floor space.
  - ii. Mechanical ventilation with on/ off switches at points of ingress that are capable of exhausting to the outside.
- 3.13 Emergency showers and eye-wash stations shall be maintained where corrosive materials/chemicals are stored to enable immediate emergency response.
- 3.14 All exit routes and emergency doors shall be free from obstruction at all times.

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- 3.15 Fork lifts utilised to lift and transport packaged hazardous materials shall have rated capacity to support the full weight of packages.
- 3.16 Fork lift times used for lifting packaged dry chemicals shall be free of sharp edges and protrusions.

# 4.0 WATER QUALITY

Adhere to the provisions of the Environmental Protection (Water Quality) Regulations, 2000.

- 4.1 Point source discharge of effluent from the Project into the surrounding environment is **strictly prohibited**.
- 4.2 Storm water discharge shall be directed away from hazardous material storage areas.
- 4.3 Any chemical spills occurring during handling and loading of hazardous materials, **shall be** immediately cleaned and disposed as guided by the respective Safety Data Sheet, at an EPA authorised disposal facility.
- 4.4 Hazardous materials shall not be stored in an area where it could potentially enter any waterways as a result of heavy rainfall or high winds. All hazardous materials shall be stored at least **5m** away from any drains on site.
- 4.5 All equipment re-fuelling shall be conducted on an impervious base to prevent leakage into the soil and surrounding waterways.
- 4.6 Maintenance activities of machinery/transport equipment e.g. forklift shall NOT be conducted onsite so as to avoid soil and water contamination from fuel, grease, waste oils and other petroleum products.
- 4.7 Drainage system shall be kept flowing and free of debris and vegetation. Scheduled cleaning of the drainage network and the immediate environment shall be conducted.

# 5.0 AIR QUALITY AND NOISE MANAGEMENT

Adhere to the provisions of the Environmental Protection (Air Quality) Regulations, 2000 and the Environmental Protection (Noise Management) Regulations, 2000.

- Best Available Technologies (BATs) shall be implemented to mitigate adverse noise impacts from heavy machinery and generators on the environment e.g. use of silencers, mufflers, enclosures or other appropriate devices.
- 5.2 Comply with the Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS) Guidelines for Noise Emission into the Environment at a distance of 15 m (50 ft) from the source or at the property boundary, whichever is closer.

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# Industrial Limits: 100 dB (Day-time (06:00 h -18:00 h)) 80 dB (Night- time (18:00 h - 06:00 h))

- 5.3 All equipment and machinery shall be placed upon foundations properly designed to ensure effective damping of vibrations.
- 5.4 Bulk containers holding dusty materials shall not be filled beyond capacity. Continuous level monitoring shall be conducted to protect against overfill.
- 5.5 All equipment capable of causing, or preventing, emissions shall be maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- 5.6 All machines/equipment shall be serviced in accordance with manufacturer's specifications to ensure efficiency and to reduce the level of noise produced. A summarised maintenance report shall be submitted as a component of the **Annual Report.**
- 5.7 Idling of equipment or vehicles shall be limited, as far as practical and all equipment or vehicles switched off when not in use.
- 5.8 In the event of equipment malfunction or **inefficiencies** which may result in visible emissions to air or, in the event of malfunction leads to abnormal emissions, the operator shall:
  - investigate and undertake remedial action **immediately**;
  - adjust the process or activity to minimize those emissions; and
  - record the events and actions taken.
- 5.9 Implement and maintain **Best Available Technique (BAT)** to reduce particulate matter (PM) emissions into the environment from the handling and storage of dry materials.

## **6.0 WASTE MANAGEMENT**

- 6.1 In accordance with the Environmental Protection (Litter Enforcement) Regulations, 2013, promote good sanitation and solid waste disposal practices on site. Place covered garbage receptacles, each on an impervious base and at a strategic location, within and outside the storage facility.
- 6.2 Non-hazardous solid waste shall not be burnt on site. All solid waste shall be disposed at an approved Solid Waste Disposal Site, by an EPA Authorised Waste Disposal Company.
- 6.3 Good house-keeping, sanitary, and hygienic practices shall be maintained at all times. The Facility's surroundings shall be kept free of vegetation and litter.
- 6.4 Solid waste receptacles shall be secured when not in use.
- 6.5 Waste containers shall not be filled with washout water or any other liquid.

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- 6.6 Waste storage containers shall be regularly inspected, repaired, and/or replaced.
- 6.7 Hazardous wastes including appliances, fluorescent lamps, pesticides, etc. shall not be disposed of in non-hazardous waste containers.
- 6.8 Wastes such as hazardous wastes, appliances, fluorescent lamps, pesticides, etc. should not be disposed of in solid waste containers
- 6.9 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).

# 7.0 HAZARDOUS WASTES MANAGEMENT

Adhere to the provisions of the Environmental Protection (Hazardous Wastes Management) Regulations, 2000.

- 7.1 Empty chemical/material containers or drums shall be managed as outline below and are subjected to the Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) for each material:
  - 7.1.1 Empty containers contaminated with hazardous material shall be destroyed prior to disposal at a landfill authorised by the EPA or reused, provided that the empty containers is not a hazard to human health or the environment.
  - 7.1.2 Empty containers may be reused to store the same hazardous material and/or waste.
  - 7.1.3 Containers may be reused to store non-hazardous material and/or waste, if all hazardous waste residuals have been removed and the container thoroughly cleaned.
- 7.2 Hazardous waste containers shall be labelled with the following:
  - i. The words "Hazardous Waste"
  - ii. The type of waste
  - iii. Beginning accumulation date- 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.
- 7.3 All hazardous waste shall be stored in a covered, bunded area. This area shall include the following:
  - i. Signage-"Hazardous Waste Storage Area"
  - ii. Low traffic
  - iii. No floor drains
  - iv. Secondary containment capable of containing 110% of the largest volume therein.
- 7.4 All obsolete and expired materials shall be returned to source for treatment and/or disposal.

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

## 8.0 COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND REPORTING

- 8.1 Notify the Environmental Protection Agency within one (1) hour of the occurrence of any environmental emergencies (e.g. oil spills, hazardous 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).
- 8.2 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**.
- 8.3 Monitor the implementation of the conditions of this Permit, insofar as they involve adherence by your employees.
- 8.4 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.
- 8.5 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.
- 8.6 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).
- 8.7 Submit an **Annual Report** to the EPA on the progress of the operation and compliance with the conditions under which this Permit was granted on or before **March 31**, **each year**.
- 8.8 Report to the Agency any non-compliance(s) with the Operation Permit:
  - i. Within **twenty-four (24) hours** of the time the Holder of the Environmental Authorisation for Operation becomes aware of the non-compliance, the anticipated manner in which it may endanger human health or the environment.
  - ii. 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.

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- iii. 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.
- 8.9 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.
- 8.10 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.

# 9.0 INSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY/ LIABILITIES

- 9.1 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.
- 9.2 The EPA reserves the right to review/amend the conditions attached to this Permit which also includes the review and/or amendment of permit fees in consideration of any changes in fee schedule as determined by the Agency for projects of this nature.
- 9.3 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 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.
- 9.4 The EPA shall have the right to cancel or suspend this Permit for breach of any of the terms and conditions contained herein.
- 9.5 The Permit Holder, his Servants and/or Agents 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 the person takes all reasonable and practicable measures 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.

Page 10 of 12

Issued under the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000.

- c. The discharge or release of contaminants, such as hydraulic fluids, lubricants, fuel, or other industrial fluids relative to the Project, which are not stipulated herein, or by Regulations under the Environmental Protection Act, are strictly prohibited. Any such discharge or release shall be a violation of 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, whether 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 to the activity for which this Permit has been issued.
- 9.6 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.
- 9.7 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 s. 26 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 9.8 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, issue to the Permit Holder a Prohibition Notice, which may include an order to immediately cease the offending activity. See: s. 27 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 9.9 This Operation Permit is effective for the period stipulated herein; **June 2021 to May 2023.**
- 9.10 This Operation Permit shall remain valid until **May 31, 2023**, 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.

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- 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, whether 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.
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- 9.11 This Permit must be renewed by submitting a completed Renewed Application Form for Environmental Authorisation (Operation Permit) to the Agency at least six months before this Permit expires, that is, no later than **November 30**, **2022**.
- 9.12 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 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.
- 9.13 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 Manfah Lazack  Ms. Sharifah Razack  Executive Director (A.g.	on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency
Ms. Sharifah Razack	

MENTAL PROTECTION

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

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DATE	2021/04/08	
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	Page 12 of 12	