



**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.:	20240906-DNESF
Fee:	Medium (C1) i.e., US\$500 per year
Fee to be Paid:	US\$ 2500 for Five (5) Years (March 2025- February 2030)
Addressee:	Mr. Dhani Narine Chief Executive Officer Optique Eye Hospital Inc. Sublot 'X', Portion of Sublot 'C' 350, New Market Street, North Cummingsburg, Georgetown
Activity:	Operation of an Eye Surgical Facility (Only)

Optique Eye Hospital 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 Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000, to Operate an Eye Surgical Facility located at Sublot 'X', Portion of Sublot 'C' 350, New Market Street, North Cummingsburg, Georgetown, hereinafter referred to as the "Project," in the manner indicated in the Application for Environmental Authorisation submitted on September 10, 2024, and 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, 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 GENERAL OPERATION

- 1.1 An application shall be made 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 All employees and third parties under the Project's direction shall be made aware of the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation.
- 1.3 A register of the types and quantities of chemical reagents managed at the Project shall be established and maintained. The registered information shall be summarized and made available for inspection by the EPA upon request.
- 1.4 Chemical Reagents shall be stored in accordance with the manufacturer's directions or Safety Data Sheet (SDS) instructions.
- 1.5 Safety Data Sheets for all Chemical Reagents shall be readily available and easily accessible at all times at the Project.
- 1.6 Emergency spill cleanup kits for spills of chemical reagents shall be maintained at the facility. Kits shall contain absorbent materials and other appropriate tools for clean-up.
- 1.7 Fire prevention and control equipment shall be maintained at the Project in accordance with the Guyana Fire Service approval.
- 1.9 Adhere to the requirements of the **Occupational Safety and Health Act, Cap. 99:06, Laws of Guyana.**

2.0 BIO-HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

- 2.1 Adhere to the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Hazardous Waste Management) Regulations, 2000.**
- 2.2 All waste mixed or contaminated with medical waste shall be treated as bio-hazardous waste.
- 2.3 An Occupational Safety, Health, and Environmental Management Training Schedule for staff involved in the collection, storage, and handling of bio-hazardous waste shall be maintained and made available for inspection by the EPA upon request.
- 2.4 Bio-hazardous wastes shall be identified and segregated according to category at the point of generation.
- 2.5 Bio-hazardous wastes shall be properly labeled and color-coded. Labeling can include words such as "Infectious Substances," "Bio Hazardous Waste," and "Bio Hazard."
- 2.6 Putrescible medical waste shall be refrigerated at 40 °F (4° C) or below.
- 2.7 Disposal of sharps shall **NOT** incorporate cutting, breaking, bending, or any other manipulation.

- 2.7.1 Staff are strictly prohibited from washing/cleaning sharps before disposal.
- 2.8 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.
- 2.9 Avoid the use of mercury-based medical devices (e.g., thermometers and blood pressure devices) and replace them with digital alternatives. In instances where mercury waste is generated, the waste shall be segregated for disposal.
- 2.10 Bio-hazardous waste containers shall adhere to the following particulars of appropriate labelling:
- i. Name (location);
 - ii. Date;
 - iii. Type of Waste;
 - iv. List of Content; and
 - v. Quantity.
- 2.11 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.
- 2.12 All bio-hazardous wastes shall be collected, treated, and disposed of by an EPA authorised waste disposal facility.
- 2.13 The Project shall retain a signed copy of the **Waste Manifest Form**, submitted by the Hazardous Waste Transporter, for a period of three years. The copies shall be maintained on-site, and an annual summary of these records shall be submitted to the EPA as a component of the **Annual Report**.
- 2.14 The Bio-hazardous waste storage area shall be maintained in accordance with the following conditions:
- 2.14.1 The collection and storage of liquid bio-hazardous is **strictly prohibited**;
 - 2.14.2 The area shall be secure and access restricted to authorized personnel only;
 - 2.14.3 Warning signs and biohazard symbols shall be posted on the facility;
 - 2.14.4 The area shall have a hard, impermeable floor with drainage and designed to withstand cleaning/disinfection without cracking, breaking, or other damage that would prevent effective disinfection;
 - 2.14.5 The area shall have easy access to waste collection vehicles and

2.14.6 The area shall be protected from contamination and contact with water, rain, wind, and animals. Measures shall be taken to ensure the area does not become a breeding ground for vermin.

3.0 NOISE QUALITY MANAGEMENT

3.1 Adhere to **the Environmental Protection (Noise Management) Regulations, 2000.**

3.2 Noise emissions shall be monitored 15 meters away from the source of noise (at the Project's boundary) **annually** to determine compliance with Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS) *Guidelines for Noise Emissions into the Environment*, not exceeding the industrial limits listed below:

Commercial Limits: 80 dB (Day-time (06:00 h -18:00 h))
65 dB (Night- time (18:00 h - 06:00 h))

Noise Quality monitoring shall be conducted in accordance with the parameters listed above by trained personnel utilizing calibrated equipment. Records of each monitoring exercise shall be maintained, and results submitted to the Agency as a component of the Project's **Annual Report**.

3.3 All equipment and machinery shall be placed upon foundations properly designed to ensure effective damping of vibrations.

3.4 All significant noise-producing equipment, such as generators, etc., shall be equipped with silencers or mufflers to reduce noise levels and enclosed in structures constructed with materials of good noise insulation properties, e.g., hollow concrete blocks, insulation boards, solid clay bricks, etc.

4.0 WASTE MANAGEMENT

4.1 In accordance with the **Environmental Protection (Litter Enforcement) Regulations, 2013**, promote good sanitation and solid waste disposal practices on site; covered garbage receptacles must be placed at strategic locations at the facility.

4.2 Burning of solid waste **is strictly prohibited**. All solid waste shall be disposed of by an EPA-Authorised Waste Disposal Company.

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

4.4 Promote waste minimization and the reuse and/or recycling of waste and other materials where practical.

4.5 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).

- 4.6 The Permit Holder shall maintain the septic tank system on site in accordance with the Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS) *Code of Practice for the Design and Construction of Septic Tanks and Associated Secondary Treatment and Disposal Systems*:
- i) The septic tank shall not be located within 1.5 meters of a building or property boundary;
 - ii) septic tanks shall be installed with a sand and charcoal filter bed or other appropriate design for further treatment; and
 - iii) shall be accessible for cleaning and de-sludging.
- 4.7 Any modification to the Septic tank shall be in accordance with the Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS) *Code of Practice for the Design and Construction of Septic Tanks and Associated Secondary Treatment and Disposal Systems*

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 the 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 of 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 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.

6.2 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.

6.3 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.

6.4 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.

6.5 The Permit Holder shall be liable to compensate any person who suffers any loss or damage as a result of contravening conditions 5.3 and 5.4 of this Environmental Permit, pursuant to s. 19 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.

6.6 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 of any contaminant in any amount, concentration, ultrahazardous substances, chemicals or otherwise, and shall be rendered liable to prosecution and to penalties prescribed under the Environmental Protection Act and Regulations.

6.7 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.
- 6.8 Shall 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.
- 6.9 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.
- 6.10 The EPA reserves the right to conduct regular inspections of the Permit Holder's 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.
- 6.11 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.
- 6.12 The EPA has the right to modify, cancel or suspend this Permit for breach of any of the terms and conditions contained herein.
- 6.13 **This Environmental Permit is not the final consent; all relevant Permissions shall be obtained from other regulatory bodies for continued operation.**
- 6.14 This Environmental Permit effective for the period stipulated herein: **March 2025 to February 2030.**
- 6.15 This Environmental Permit shall remain valid until **February 28, 2030**, 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.
- 6.16 This Permit shall 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 **August 31, 2029.**

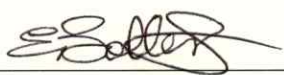
- 6.17 Any late submission of renewal application after the specified date, as stated above, may require the Permit Holder to pay, in addition to the renewal fee, a late penalty fee (accruing at the time such obligation was first owed for renewal) at a rate of **two thousand dollars (GY\$2000.00) per 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.
- 6.18 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 Laws of Guyana.

Signed by *Kemraj Parsram* on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency.



Date 2025.03.20

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:	TON BOLLERS
DATE:	24-03-2025
SIGNATURE:	
DESIGNATION:	Operations Manager



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