



**Environmental  
Protection  
Agency**

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## **Environmental Permit (Renewed & Varied)**

**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>	<b>20190620-JJDDL</b>
<b>Fees</b>	<b>Medium (C2) US\$800 per year</b>
<b>Fees to be Paid</b>	<b>US\$ 4000 for Five (5) Years (August 2024 – July 2029)</b>
<b>Addressee(s):</b>	<b>Demerara Distillers Limited Tropical Orchard Products Company Limited (TOPCO) Block 'A', Plantation Diamond, East Bank Demerara</b>
<b>Activity:</b>	<b>Operation of a Plant Producing Juice, Jams, Jellies, Fruit Mix and Dairy Processing and Packaging.</b>
<b>Varied Activity</b>	<b>Construction of a Raw Material Bond, Expansion of the TOPCO plant for the installation of the fresh milk processing equipment, and the installation of a Slim Leaf Single Serve Line.</b>

Demerara Distillers Ltd., 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, for the Construction of a Raw Material Bond, Expansion of the TOPCO Plant, Installation of a Slim Leaf Serve, and the operation a Plant Producing Juice, Jams, Jellies, Fruit Mix and Diary Processing and Packaging at Plantation Diamond, East Bank Demerara, hereinafter referred to as the "Project," in a manner indicated in the Application for Renewal of an Environmental Authorisation submitted on December 12, 2023, and the Application for Variance of Environmental Authorisation submitted on March 04, 2024, 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 Renewal and Variance of Environmental Permit (Variance and Modification), Reference No. 20190620-JJDDL, issued on January 14, 2022, and expires on July 31, 2024.

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

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**1.0 CONSTRUCTION**

- 1.1 Land clearing and disturbance shall be limited to areas where immediate work is taking place.
- 1.2 Construction works shall **not be executed between 18:00 hrs. to 06:00 hrs.**, on any day, close to communal areas unless, approval is sought from the EPA. This requirement does not apply for large concrete pours or asphalt laying and earth removal where work in the early morning and late evening is required.
- 1.3 Areas for construction material stockpiles and equipment shall be identified.
- 1.4 Stockpile areas shall be downwind to avoid materials being dispersed by wind to sensitive areas. Loading and offloading activities shall, as far as possible, also be confined to this location.
- 1.5 Temporary stockpiles shall not exceed **twenty-four (24) hours** before being removed or transferred to the designated stockpiling areas established by Condition 1.3.
- 1.6 Temporary stockpiles of construction materials, including excavated waste, shall be stored in a secured, designated area and protected from wind and water erosion.
- 1.7 Stockpiles shall not exceed the height of the parameter fence.
- 1.8 Stockpiles, including dusty materials transported to, from, and within the site, shall be enclosed or covered to reduce airborne emissions. Where this is not practical owing to frequent usage, employ wet suppression methods such as watering or erecting dust screens/fences to control emissions.
- 1.9 Install a silt fence **at least 3 meters** from the boundary of any canal, drain, or river to prevent any possible contamination from construction material. The height of the silt fence shall be **no less than 3 meters**; the distance between fence posts shall **not exceed 1.2 meters (4 ft.)**, and fence posts shall be installed at a depth of **at least 0.6 meters (24 inches)**.
- 1.10 Where feasible, pre-mixed, 'ready-mixed' concrete shall be used to reduce dust emissions caused by on-site preparation.
- 1.11 Measures shall be implemented for the removal of any contamination and or siltation of drains during construction.
- 1.12 All construction equipment and machinery shall be maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications to avoid mechanical failures and abnormal noise pollution. Logs and records signed by the appropriate inspecting personnel shall be maintained and made available for inspection by the EPA upon request.
- 1.13 All cutting of wood and mixing of cement shall be done at least 15m from the



perimeter drains to minimize pollution.

## **2.0 OPERATIONS**

- 2.1 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 Regulation 20(3) of the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations
- 2.2 Establish and implement a schedule for effective maintenance of the production plant and all equipment and installations. Maintenance reports shall be maintained on-site and made available for inspection by the EPA upon request.
- 2.3 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the safe operation of the TOPCO Plant and other associated equipment shall be established and maintained and made available for inspection by the EPA upon request.
- 2.4 All employees shall be trained on these SOPs outlined in **condition 2.3** above. Training records shall be maintained and made available for inspection by the EPA upon request.
- 2.5 All employees and third parties under the Project's direction shall be made aware of the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation.
- 2.6 The Permit Holder shall provide training on good environmental practices.
- 2.7 Fire prevention and control equipment shall be maintained in accordance with the Guyana Fire Service Approval.
- 2.8 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.
- 2.9 Adhere to the requirements of the **Occupational Safety and Health Act, Cap. 99:01, Laws of Guyana.**

### 3.0 WATER QUALITY

- 3.1 Adhere to the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Water Quality) Regulations, 2000.**
- 3.2 Untreated effluent discharge from the project into the surrounding environment is **strictly prohibited.**
- 3.3 All effluent generated from the dairy and fruit processing shall be directed to the Waste Treatment System.
- 3.4 Effluent treated via the Waste Water Treatment System shall be in accordance with the **Waste Treatment Plan submitted to the EPA on October 30, 2020.**
- 3.5 The project shall maintain the integrity of the existing waterways at all times. Discharges into the environment should be in accordance with the Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS) *Interim Guidelines for Industrial Effluent Discharge into the Environment*. The following are the allowable limits for the general environment and should not be exceeded:

Parameter	Daily Maximum Concentration	Units
pH	5.0 – 9.0	
Temperature	40	°C
Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD)	<100	mg/L
Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD)	<250	mg/L
Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	<100	mg/L

Water Quality Monitoring shall be conducted **quarterly** at the approved sampling point/s, in accordance with the parameters listed above, by trained personnel utilizing calibrated equipment. Records shall be maintained and submitted to the EPA as a component of the **Annual Report.**

- 3.6 A maintenance schedule shall be established for the waste treatment holding tanks. Maintenance reports shall be maintained on-site and made available to the EPA upon request.
- 3.7 Secondary containment shall be maintained around the waste treatment holding tanks:
- 3.7.1 The secondary containment shall provide 110% of the largest volume of liquid stored, and no part of the tank infrastructure (e.g.,

dispenser, filling hoses, and valves) shall protrude outside the containment.

3.7.2 The base of the secondary containment shall be of impervious material.

3.7.3 Secondary containment shall remain sealed, and all piping must enter or exit the containment over the wall.

3.8 The project shall maintain the mesh/sieve at the final discharge point to prevent solid waste from entering waterways. Any recovered solid waste shall be disposed of by an EPA-authorized facility.

#### **4.0 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGEMENT - (Sulfuric Acid, Nitric Acid and Sodium Hydroxide)**

4.1 Adhere to the **Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Act 2000.**

4.2 A register of the quantities of Chemicals stored at the Project shall be established and maintained. Registered information shall be maintained on-site and made available for inspection by the EPA upon request.

4.3 The Chemical Storage Area shall be clearly labeled with "***Danger, Hazardous Storage Area- Authorized Personnel Only***" where applicable as a spill control measure.

4.4 Flammable materials shall be stored away from ignition sources. '**No Smoking**' signs shall be posted where these materials are handled and stored.

4.5 Chemicals shall be stored in accordance with the manufacturer's directions or Safety Data Sheet instructions.

4.6 Safety Data Sheets for all Chemicals shall be readily available and easily accessible at all times in Chemical Storage Areas.

4.7 Chemicals shall be segregated as indicated below to reduce the risk of mixed spillage and fire:

- i. Acids separate from Bases;
- ii. Acids separate from Flammables;
- iii. Bases separate from Flammables;
- iv. Oxidizers separate from Compressed Flammable Gases; and
- v. Oxides separate from all other chemicals.

4.8 Chemical containers shall be clearly labelled in accordance with the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling. The following must be evident:

- i. Signal Word;



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- ii. GHS Symbols- (Hazard Pictograms);
  - iii. Manufacturer Information;
  - iv. Precautionary Statements/ First Aid;
  - v. Hazard Statements; and
  - vi. Product Name or Identifiers
- 4.9 Chemical storage containers shall be inspected for signs of leakage or corrosion, and damaged containers **must be** replaced **immediately**. Inspection reports shall be maintained on-site and made available for inspection by the EPA upon request.
- 4.10 Chemicals **shall not** be stored on damaged or inadequately secured racking or on damaged pallets to minimize the risk of spills.
- 4.11 Chemicals stored in drums and totes shall:
- a) Be protected from UV rays;
  - b) Be covered to prevent exposure to dirt, dust, and moisture; and
  - c) Do not hang over the side of pallets used for stacking.
- 4.12 Secondary containment (bund area) shall be maintained to minimize the spread/release of liquid material spillage occurring within the storage area. The secondary containment wall shall possess the following characteristics:
- i. Capacity equal to 110% of the volume of liquid stored within the largest storage container;
  - ii. Walls constructed of earth, steel, concrete, or solid masonry. Cracks and seams shall be sealed to prevent leakage; and
  - iii. Liners/flooring constructed of asphalt or concrete and designed to withstand foreseeable loading conditions.
- 4.13 All employees involved in the management of manufacturing chemicals shall be trained on Hazardous Material Communication and Emergency Preparedness Response. Training reports shall be maintained on-site and made available for inspection by the EPA upon request.
- 4.14 Third-party contractor(s) utilized for the transport of chemicals to and from the Facility shall be authorized by the EPA.
- 5.0 HAZARDOUS WASTE (Empty Chemical Containers) MANAGEMENT**
- 5.1 Adhere to the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Hazardous Waste Management) Regulations, 2000**.
- 5.2 Empty chemical containers or drums shall be managed as outlined below and are subjected to the Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) for each chemical:
- i. Empty containers contaminated with chemicals 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.
  - ii. Empty containers may be reused to store the same industrial chemical and/or waste.
  - iii. Containers may be reused to store non-hazardous material and/or waste if all chemical residuals have been removed and the container thoroughly cleaned.
- 5.3 All obsolete and expired chemicals shall be returned to the source for treatment and/or disposal; where applicable, local Hazardous Waste Treatment Facilities approved by the EPA may be utilized.
- 5.4 All hazardous waste shall be collected, treated, and disposed of by an EPA-authorized waste disposal facility.
- 5.5 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**.

#### **6.0 NOISE QUALITY MANAGEMENT**

- 6.1 Adhere to **the Environmental Protection (Noise Management) Regulations, 2000**.
- 6.2 The Best Available Technologies or measures, e.g., silencers, mufflers, enclosures, or other appropriate devices, shall be utilized to mitigate adverse noise impacts from machinery on the environment.
- 6.3 Noise emissions shall be monitored 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 commercial limits listed below:

**Commercial limits: 80dB** (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 shall be submitted to the Agency as a component of the Project's **Annual Report**.

- 6.4 All equipment shall be serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications to ensure efficiency and reduce the level of noise produced. A summarised maintenance report shall be maintained on-site and made available for inspection by the EPA upon request.

6.5 In the event of equipment malfunction or **inefficiencies** which may result in visible emissions to air or, in the event of the malfunction leads to abnormal emissions, the operator shall:

- i. Investigate and undertake remedial action **immediately**;
- ii. Adjust the process or activity to minimize those emissions; and
- iii. Record the events and actions taken. This shall be submitted as a component of the Annual Report

## **7.0 WASTE MANAGEMENT**

7.1 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.

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

7.3 The disposal of solid waste into the environment is **strictly prohibited**. All solid waste shall be disposed of by an EPA-authorized Waste Management Company.

7.4 All byproducts (sludge) generated as a result of the waste treatment system shall be collected and disposed of by an EPA-authorized Waste Disposal Company.

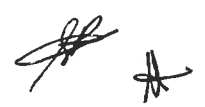
7.5 Good housekeeping, sanitary, and hygienic practices shall be maintained at all times. The facility's drains and surroundings shall be kept free of vegetation and litter.

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

7.7 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).

7.8 The Permit Holder shall maintain a 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.





- 7.9 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.

## **8.0 COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND REPORTING**

- 8.1 Notify the Environmental Protection Agency within **one (1) hour** of the discovery of the occurrence of environmental emergencies (e.g., oil spills, hazardous materials/wastes, and chemicals 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). Notification as prescribed by Section 19(3)(a) of the Environmental Protection Act, shall be submitted to the EPA within **twenty-four (24) hours** of discovery of the incident occurring.
- 8.2 Monitor the implementation of the conditions of this Permit insofar as they involve adherence by your employees.
- 8.3 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.
- 8.4 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.
- 8.5 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).
- 8.6 Submit an **Annual Report** to the EPA on your compliance with this Environmental Permit on or before **March 31, each year**.
- 8.7 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.

8.8 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.

8.9 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.

**9.0 INSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY/LIABILITIES**

9.1 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.

9.2 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.

9.3 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.

9.4 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 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.

9.5 The Permit Holder shall be liable to compensate any person who suffers any loss or damage as a result of contravening conditions 9.3 and 9.4 of this Environmental Permit, pursuant to s. 19 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.

9.6 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, 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.

9.7 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.



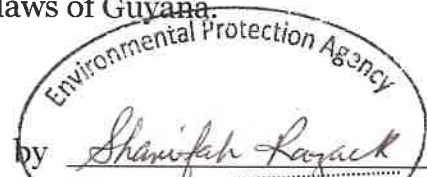
- 9.8 Should the Permit Holder contravene or be likely to contravene any condition of this Permit, the Agency (EPA) may serve on him an Enforcement Notice in accordance with Section 26 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 9.9 Where it appears to the Agency that the Permit 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.
- 9.10 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.
- 9.11 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.
- 9.12 The EPA has the right to modify, cancel or suspend this Permit for breach of any of the terms and conditions contained herein.
- 9.13 This Environmental Permit is not the final consent; all relevant Permissions should be obtained from other regulatory bodies for continued operation.
- 9.14 This Environmental Permit (Renewed & Varied) is effective for the period stipulated herein; **August 2024 to July 2029.**
- 9.15 This Environmental Permit (Renewed & Varied) shall remain valid until **July 31, 2029**, 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, the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000.
- 9.16 This Permit (Renewed & Varied) must be renewed by submitting a completed Application Form for Renewal of Environmental Authorisation to the Agency at least six months before this Permit expires, that is, no later than **January 31, 2029.**

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- 9.17 Any late submission of renewal application (s) after the specified date as stated above, may 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.
- 9.18 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 Shanifah Razack on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency.

  
**Kemraj Parsram**  
Executive Director

Date 2024.08.02

I hereby accept the above terms and conditions upon which this Environmental Permit (Renewed & Varied) 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, in any forthcoming regulations, guidelines, best practices, and standards made under this Act.

NAME:	SHARON SUE-HANG
DESIGNATION:	DIRECTOR - TECHNICAL SERVICES
DATE:	<u>2024-08-22</u>
SIGNATURE:	<u>2024-08-22</u>

