



**Environmental
Protection
Agency**

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

Environmental Permit (Interim)

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.:	20230614-DNOEH
Fee:	Medium (C1) - US\$500 per year
Fees Paid:	US\$ 500 for one (1) year – October, 2023 to September, 2024

Addressee: Mr. Dhani Narine
Optique Eye Hospital Inc
350 East Street, North Cummingsburg,
Georgetown,
Guyana.

Activity: Construction and Operation of Optique Eye Hospital Inc.

Optique Eye Hospital Inc., herein referred to as the "Permit Holder", is hereby authorised in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000, to construct and operate Optique Eye Hospital Inc Sublot 'X' Portion of Sublot 'C' 350, New Market Street, North Cummingsburg, Georgetown., Region 4, hereinafter referred to as "the Project", in the manner indicated in the Application submitted on June 14, 2023, subject to the terms and conditions set forth herein under the Environmental Protection Act, existing or forthcoming regulations made under the said Act and/or any other applicable Laws of Guyana, best practices, guidelines and standards relevant to this project.

Terms and Conditions for construction and operation to be adhered to by the Permit Holder, his servants, agents and sub-contractors:

1.0 GENERAL

- 1.1 The Permit Holder shall make an application to the Agency to vary this Environmental Permit in instances where it becomes necessary to:

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- 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. Affect any other change outlined in 20(3) of the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations.
- 1.2 The Permit Holder shall adhere to requirements of the **Occupational Health and Safety Act, Cap 99:10, Laws of Guyana.**
- 1.3 The Permit Holder shall employ or designate an employee to the role of an Occupational Health and Safety (OHS)/Environmental Officer to be responsible for the implementation and coordination of all safety requirements and terms and conditions stipulated in this Permit, as well as compliance monitoring with the preparation of all required reports.
- 1.4 The Permit Holder shall make all employees, and third parties under your direction, aware of the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation and provide training on good environmental practices.
- 1.5 The Permit Holder shall implement in accordance to the approved Waste Management Plan, all plans, specifications of location, pathways, reserve and boundary lines must be adhered to, unless otherwise authorised; evidence of which must be provided to the Agency.
- 1.6 The Permit Holder shall not execute construction works 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.
- 1.7 The Permit Holder shall ensure that appropriate barriers, equipment/material staging areas, and all supporting infrastructure, facilities and equipment associated within the project site are provided, maintained and removed upon completion of works. Once works are completed, rehabilitation measures must be implemented to restore any disturbances to the environment.
- 1.8 The Permit Holder shall ensure that access is provided to all properties adjacent

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to the site for the duration of the project construction. Place warning signs at strategic locations and create walk paths to avoid accidents with individuals in the nearby communities.

- 1.9 **Upon expiry of this Permit, or its cancellation by the Agency, activities may only commence or resume upon the issuance of a full, valid Environmental Permit by the Agency; subject to the procedures stipulated by Section 11 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, for which the Agency provides no guarantees or assurances.**

2.0 WATER AND SOIL QUALITY MANAGEMENT

- 2.1 The Permit Holder shall strictly comply with the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Water Quality) Regulations 2000.**

- 2.2 The Permit Holder shall maintain the integrity of the existing waterways at all times. Discharges into the environment shall 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 this type of project and should not be exceeded:

- i. Total Suspended Solid (TSS) < 50 mg/L;
- ii. Oil and Grease < 10 mg/L.

- 2.3 The Permit Holder shall monitor the water quality.
- 2.4 The Permit Holder shall avoid erosion, siltation and sedimentation of existing water bodies within the vicinity of the project site. Do not discharge wastewater from washout and/or cleanout of concrete, paint, and other construction materials into waterways unless appropriately treated.
- 2.5 The Permit Holder shall construct and maintain drainage systems capable of handling the probable maximum precipitation event.
- 2.6 The Permit Holder shall avoid soil and water contamination from fuel, grease, waste oils and other petroleum products that might be used at the facility.

3.0 AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AND NOISE ABATEMENT



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3.1 The Permit Holder shall strictly comply with the **Environmental Protection (Air Quality) Regulations, 2000** and the **Environmental Protection (Noise Management) Regulations 2000**.

3.2 The Permit Holder shall monitor noise emissions in accordance with the approved ESMP to determine compliance with the **Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS)** Guidelines for Noise Emissions into the Environment. Sound levels from noise-making devices shall not exceed the limits below, at a distance of 15 metres (50 ft) from the source or property boundary, whichever is closer.

During Construction

Construction Limits: 90 dB during the daytime (06:00 h - 18:00 h)

75 dB during the night-time (18:00 h - 06:00 h)

During Operation

Commercial Limits: 80 dB during the daytime (06:00 h - 18:00 h)

65 dB during the night-time (18:00 h - 06:00 h)

3.3 The Permit Holder shall locate generators away from communal areas to minimise adverse fumes/soot impacts to the contiguous areas.

3.4 The Permit Holder shall exhaust stacks of generators shall be at least 2 metres above the tallest building.

3.5 The Permit Holder shall monitor ambient air quality in accordance with the approved ESMP to determine compliance with the World Health Organisation (WHO) Air Quality Guidelines for Particulate Matter in the Environment, not exceeding the limits below:

PM_{2.5}: 25 µg/m³ 24-hour mean

PM₁₀: 50 µg/m³ 24-hour mean

3.6 The Permit Holder shall record, investigate and address complaints of excessive noise, dust and vibrations from the public promptly upon receipt. Maintain a record of all complaints received and the action taken.

3.7 The Permit Holder shall install and maintain air filtration systems to control indoor air quality, especially in areas where surgeries or procedures are performed.

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3.8 The Permit Holder shall control noise levels within acceptable limits, particularly in patient care and residential areas.

4.0 BIO-HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

4.1 The Permit Holder shall adhere to the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Hazardous Waste Management) Regulations, 2000.**

4.2 The Permit Holder shall treat all waste mixed or contaminated with medical waste as bio-hazardous waste.

4.3 An Occupational Safety, Health and Environmental Management Training Schedule for staff involved in the collection, storage and handling of bio-hazardous waste shall be established. The training report(s) shall be submitted to the EPA upon request.

4.4 The Permit Holder shall implement biosafety and infection control protocols to minimize the risk of spreading infectious diseases within the hospital.

4.5 The Permit Holder shall identify and segregate Bio-hazardous wastes according to category, at the point of generation. Bio-hazardous waste containers must display the following particulars to be considered appropriately labelled:

- i. Name (location);
- ii. Date;
- iii. Type of Waste;
- iv. List of Content; and
- v. Quantity.

4.6 The Permit Holder shall label and colour code Bio-hazardous wastes. Labeling can include words such as "Infectious Substances", "Bio-hazardous Waste" and "Bio Hazard".

4.7 Disposal of sharps shall NOT incorporate cutting, breaking, bending or any other manipulation, and shall be disposed of at a facility authorised by the Agency.

4.8 The Permit Holder shall place in container sharps that meet the following requirements:

- i. Be rigid;



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- ii. Be puncture resistant;
- iii. Be impervious to moisture and shatter proof;
- iv. Display the universal bio-hazard symbols and a clear label of its contents; and
- v. Be capable of being sealed, preferably with a self-closing lid/a lid that prevents persons removing sharps from the container.

- 4.9 The Permit Holder shall use of mercury based medical devices (e.g., thermometers and blood pressure devices) shall be avoided and replaced with digital alternatives. Where mercury waste is generated, the waste shall be segregated for disposal at a facility authorised by EPA.
- 4.10 A Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for disposal of expired and recalled drugs shall be established and submitted to the EPA for approval by **May 31, 2024**. The disposal of expired and recalled drugs in any other manner other than outlined in the SOP is PROHIBITED, without prior approval from the EPA.
- 4.11 The Permit Holder shall record the disposal of expired and recalled drugs on a Waste Manifest Form and shall be submitted as a component of the **Annual Report**.
- 4.12 The Permit Holder shall not store Bio-hazardous waste **exceeding thirty (30) days**. The thirty-day period commences when the first item is placed into the designated storage container.
- 4.13 The Permit Holder shall collect, treat and dispose of all bio-hazardous wastes by an EPA authorized waste disposal facility. Bio-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.

5.0 FUEL AND HAZARDOUS/ WASTE MANAGEMENT

- 5.1 The Permit Holder shall strictly adhere to the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Litter Enforcement) Regulations 2013** and the **Environmental Protection (Hazardous Waste Management) Regulations, 2000**.
- 5.2 The Permit Holder shall maintain good housekeeping, sanitary and hygienic practices and the aesthetic quality of the surroundings at all times.

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- 5.3 The Permit Holder shall ensure the safe storage and handling of chemicals and pharmaceuticals used in eye care procedures.
- 5.4 The Permit Holder shall promote proper solid waste management and disposal practices at the site, place covered garbage receptacles at strategic locations around the site.
- 5.5 The Permit Holder is **strictly prohibited** from dumping of waste into the surrounding environment. Waste, inclusive of waste oil and/or fuel, shall not be stored within 10 meters of any waterways.
- 5.6 Hazardous waste shall be treated and/or disposed by an EPA authorised Hazardous Waste Disposal Facility. All hazardous waste treatment and disposal shall be documented on a Waste Manifest Form which shall be submitted to the EPA as a component of the **Annual Report**.
- 5.7 The Permit Holder shall conduct refuelling, oil changes and maintenance of equipment on an impervious base.
- 5.8 The Permit Holder shall make available spill equipment and utilised for containing and mitigating spills from fuel, bitumen, waste oils, lubricants, curing compounds, concrete admixtures, paints etc.
- 5.9 The Permit Holder shall designate an area for the storage of fuel, used oil, washing detergents, sanitisers and other hazardous materials. Hazardous materials/ waste storage areas shall be clearly labelled and secured. The following warning signs shall be clearly posted:
- i. "Hazardous Waste Storage Area"
 - ii. Danger - "Authorised Personnel Only"
 - iii. No eating, drinking or smoking
- 5.10 The Permit Holder shall contain hazardous waste in banded/kerbed storage areas. These areas shall adhere to the following requirements:
- i. Be situated in low traffic areas;
 - ii. No interceptor drains shall be constructed; and
 - iii. Be banded to provide 110% containment of the largest volume of hazardous materials stored therein.

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- 5.11 The Permit Holder shall store hazardous waste in containers appropriate for the waste stream; that is:
- i. Sealed Plastic Containers
 - a. Water-based waste
 - ii. Sealed Metal Containers
 - a. Solvents and petroleum-based products
 - b. Oil and oily absorbents
- 5.12 The Permit Holder shall inspect hazardous waste/materials storage containers weekly for signs of leakage, deterioration or corrosion. Damaged containers must be replaced immediately. Inspection reports must be maintained and signed by the appropriately qualified inspecting officer and his/her supervisor.
- 5.13 The Permit Holder shall provide adequate toilets, waste disposal and sanitary facilities at project site.
- 5.14 The Permit Holder shall construct and maintain a septic system on site; the septic tank shall not be located within 1.5 m of a building or property boundary and should be accessible for cleaning and de-sludging. 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.

6.0 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 The Permit Holder shall obtain approval from the Guyana Fire Service and provide fire protection measures such as fire extinguishers and sand buckets in accordance with this approval.
- 6.2 The Permit Holder shall ensure the Fire Safety Certificate is renewed annually and all firefighting equipment are maintained and serviced regularly. Fire Safety Certificate should be submitted to officers upon request during compliance inspection and in the Annual Report.
- 6.3 The Permit Holder shall ensure all employees are trained in the use of firefighting equipment, such as, fire extinguishers and understand the firefighting protocol.
- 6.4 The Permit Holder shall activate Emergency response plans in the event of

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chemical spills or leaks.

6.5 The Permit Holder shall ensure an updated Evacuation Plan is maintained and posted at strategic locations.

6.6 The Permit Holder shall ensure all employees are aware of the Emergency Response Plan, Environmental and Social Management and Monitoring Plan (ESMMP) when it is prepared and submitted to the Agency and their duties and responsibilities according to these plans.

6.7 The Permit Holder shall implement energy-saving measures and technologies to reduce energy consumption.

6.8 The Permit Holder shall conduct regular energy audits to identify and address inefficiencies.

7.0 COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND REPORTING

7.1 The Permit Holder shall monitor the implementation of the conditions of this Environmental Permit, insofar as they involve adherence by employees and all third parties under your direction.

7.2 The Permit Holder shall report to the Agency any non-compliance(s) with this Environmental Permit.

i. Within **twenty-four (24) hours** of the time the Holder of this Environmental Permit becomes aware of the non-compliance, with the anticipated manner in which it may endanger 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.

7.3 The Permit Holder shall submit an **Annual Report** to the EPA on your compliance with this Environmental Permit on or before **March 31, each year.**

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- 7.4 The Permit Holder shall notify the EPA within **twenty-four (24) hours** 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).
- 7.5 The Permit Holder shall 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.
- 7.6 The Permit Holder shall 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.
- 7.7 The Permit Holder shall 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.
- 7.8 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.

8.0 INSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY/LIABILITIES

- 8.1 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.**
- 8.2 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.**
- 8.3 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.**
- 8.4 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

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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.**

- 8.5 The Permit Holder shall be liable to compensate any person who suffers any loss or damage as a result of contravening conditions 7.3 and 7.4 of this Environmental Permit, pursuant **to s. 19 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.**
- 8.6 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.
- 8.7 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.
- 8.8 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.**
- 8.9 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.**
- 8.10 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, the **Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000.**
- 8.11 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


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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.

- 8.12 The EPA has the right to modify, cancel or suspend this Permit for breach of any of the terms and conditions contained herein.
- 8.13 **This Environmental Permit (Interim) is not the final consent; all relevant Permissions shall be obtained from other regulatory bodies before commencing construction activities.**
- 8.14 This Environmental Permit is effective for the period stipulated herein, **October, 2023 to September, 2024.**
- 8.15 This Environmental Permit (Interim) shall remain valid until September 30, 2024, unless otherwise suspended, cancelled, modified or varied, in accordance with the **Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000.**
- 8.16 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
Agency.


Kemraj Parsram
Executive Director

on behalf of the Environmental Protection


Date

3. 10. 2023

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

NAME:	DHANI A. MARINE
SIGNATURE:	
DESIGNATION:	Ceo
DATE:	6 Oct 5-2023



