

- Chemical plants
- Pulp, paper and wood processing
- Petroleum production, refinery, storage and stockpiling
- Fish and meat processing
- Food processing plant
- Detergent manufacturing
- Manufacturing of containers and package materials - cans, bottles, boxes, cartons
- Distillery, brewery and fermenting facilities
- Manufacturing of edible fats, oils
- Cement and lime production
- River basin development and improvement projects
- Paint manufacture
- Tanneries
- Manufacturing of pesticides or other hazardous substances
- Boxing plants
- Citrus, coffee, cocoa, coconut, sugar cane processing factories
- Manufacturing of textiles
- Solar salt production
- Construction of new highways, arterial roads, new roads on slopes greater than 20°, major road improvements projects
- Land reclamation and drainage projects
- Watershed development and soil conservation projects
- Modification, clearance or reclamation of wetlands
- Dredging, excavation, clearing and reclamation of riverine, swamp, beach
- Solid waste treatment and disposal facilities
- Cemeteries and crematoria
- Introduction of species of flora, fauna and genetic material
- Slaughterhouse and abattoirs
- Hazardous waste storage, transportation, treatment or disposal facilities
- Agro-processing and processing of agricultural wastes

- Felling of trees and clearing of land 10 hectares or more
- Clear cutting of forested areas and clearing of trees
- Irrigation and water management Improvement projects

*New categories introduced in January 2004*

- *Shipyards*
- *Marinas and boatyards*
- *Golf courses*
- *Theme parks*
- *Transportation centres for more than 10 vehicles*
- *Construction or demolition of reservoirs, dams, dykes and aqueducts*
- *Railways, tramways and cable car operations*
- *Causeways and multiple span bridges*
- *Hospitals*
- *Shopping centres*
- *Aquaculture facilities and ponds*
- *Storage of scrap metal including derelict vehicles*
- *Offshore drilling for extraction of oil, natural gas or minerals*
- *Dry cleaning operations*
- *Introduction of genetically modified organisms*

For further information contact:  
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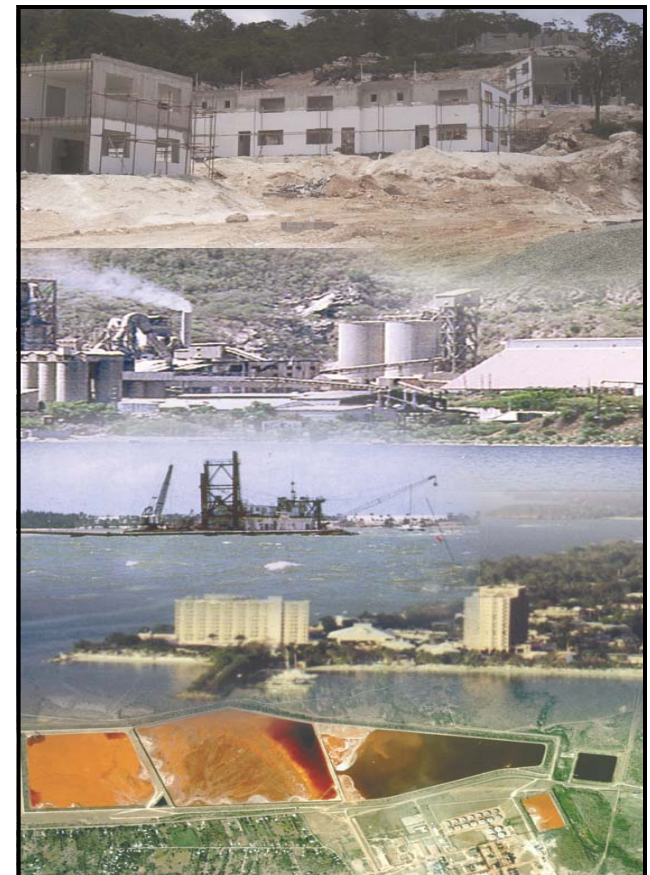
Toll free: 1-888-991-5005

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**What you need to  
know about...**

# The Natural Resources Conservation (Permits and Licences) Regulations



**National Environment and Planning Agency**

*Managing and Protecting Jamaica's Land, Wood and Water.*

# The Natural Resources Conservation (Permits and Licences) Regulations

The Natural Resources Conservation (Permits and Licence) Regulations came into effect on 1 January 1997. The Regulations were amended in January 2004, to include additional categories of enterprises, construction and development activities on the prescribed list.

## WHO NEEDS TO APPLY?

A **permit** is required by any person undertaking any enterprise, construction or development of a prescribed nature anywhere in the island and the territorial sea of Jamaica.

A **licence** is required for the handling of sewage or trade effluent and poisonous or harmful substances to be discharged into the environment.

## HOW DOES ONE APPLY FOR A PERMIT OR LICENCE?

An applicant is required to complete an application form (for permit and or licence) and a Project Information Form (PIF) for submission to NEPA. The PIF provides technical information on the proposed project which enables the Agency to identify impacts thus determining whether or not the applicant needs to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). If an EIA is required, the applicant will be notified within fifteen (15) working days of receipt of the application. Where environmental impact is minimal, no EIA will be required.

## WHAT IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)?

An EIA is a study which outlines the impacts the proposed project is likely to have on the area in which the physical development will be carried out. It also outlines mitigation measures necessary to reduce the negative impacts of the proposed project on the environment.

## WHO REVIEWS THE EIA?

The EIA is reviewed by NEPA and several other agencies/organizations depending on the nature of the development. Some of these agencies/organizations are:-

- Water Resources Authority
- Mines & Geology Division

## CONT'D

- Office of Disaster Preparedness & Emergency Management
- Jamaica Bauxite Institute
- Environmental Health Unit
- University of the West Indies
- Non Governmental Organizations

The general public is also involved in the review process as public presentations are held to get comments on the proposed development. Comments must be submitted in writing to NEPA within thirty (30) days of the presentation.

## WHAT IS THE COST OF OBTAINING A PERMIT OR LICENCE?

All applicants are required to pay a non-refundable fee of \$2,000 for each application submitted. The cost of a permit ranges from \$15,000 to \$25,000 while a licence costs \$7,500.

## WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE PERMIT OR LICENCE IS GRANTED?

Post-permit monitoring will be conducted by NEPA to ensure that conditions are met. Additionally, facilities are required to undertake self-monitoring and submit regular reports to NEPA.

NEPA reserves the right to revoke or suspend any permit or licence if stipulated conditions are not being upheld.

## HOW LONG WILL A PERMIT OR A LICENCE BE VALID?

The validity of a permit is indefinite. However, if the development has not commenced within five years after it has been granted, a new application must be made. A licence is valid for five years. The licensee must apply for renewal at least two months before its expiry date.

## WHAT HAPPENS IF A PERMIT OR A LICENCE IS DENIED?

The applicant may appeal to the Minister with responsibility for the Environment within 28 days of the

date of NEPA's decision. The Minister's decision is final.

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF OBTAINING A PERMIT OR LICENCE?

A permit and/or licence will:

- Enable enterprises to optimize their productive processes, for example, through waste reduction, recycling, energy and water conservation
- Ensure orderly development to achieve sustainable development in managing Jamaica's land, wood and water.

*Guidelines, Standards and EIA reports are available on NEPA's website [www.nepa.gov.jm](http://www.nepa.gov.jm)*

All of Jamaica has been designated a prescribed area under the Prescribed Area Order - (Section 9 of the NRCA Act of 1991) - Hence, it is an offence to carry out any prescribed activity without a permit and or licence. Penalties may include fines up to \$50,000 and or imprisonment up to 2 years.

## PREScribed CATEGORIES UNDER THE PERMIT & LICENCE REGULATIONS

- Power generation plants above 1 MW
- Electrical transmission lines and substations
- Pipelines and conveyors
- Port and harbour development
- Subdivisions of 10 lots or more
- Housing projects of 10 houses or more
- Hotel/resort complex of 12 rooms or more
- Airports and airfields, including runway expansion
- Office complexes of 5,000 square metres or greater
- Eco-tourism and nature tourism projects
- Water treatment facilities, including water supply and desalination plants
- Sewage and industrial wastewater treatment facilities
- Mining, quarrying and mineral processing - bauxite, peat, sand, minerals
- Metal processing - ferrous metals, non-ferrous metals