



For Further information you can contact us

#8 Elizabeth Street,
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PUBLIC GUIDE TO PERMITTING

Water Pollution Rules 2001 as amended by the Water Pollution (Amendment) Rules 2006

Established under the Environmental Management Act Chapter 35:05



What is a Water Pollution Permit?

It is a legally binding agreement between an applicant and the EMA, which allows a facility to discharge specified pollutants into a receiving body of water under certain conditions.



What is the Benefit?

To improve the water quality in our rivers, wetlands, coastal and marine areas, by controlling and improving the quality of effluent entering into the waters of Trinidad and Tobago.

Who needs to apply for a Permit?

Anyone who releases water pollutants at or above the limits set out in Schedule II of the Water Pollution Rules, will be notified to apply for a permit. Upon receipt of notice, the applicant has thirty (30) working days to complete the application and submit to the EMA, along with supporting attachments.



What are the steps involved?

The permit is issued by the EMA, according to the steps outlined in the Flowchart on Page 7.

How much will the Permit cost?

For first time applicants there is an application fee of \$2,500, with an annual permit fee of up to \$10,000 per year, or part thereof. Please refer to Legal Notice No. 330, The Water Pollution (Fees) (Amendment) Regulations 2006, for other fee charges.



Do I need to include anything with my application?

The application must be completed in triplicate along with attachments and the proof of payment.

How long will it take to review my application?

Thirty (30) working days from receipt of a completed application.



This time may be extended where further and additional information is required.

What is involved in the decision making process?

The application is reviewed for completeness. Any outstanding or further information that may be required to complete the application will be communicated to the applicant.

The EMA bases the decision to issue a permit on the information supplied in the application, site specific conditions, relevant local regulations, uses of the receiving water, location of the point source, best professional judgment, environmental standards, ambient water quality and any other

relevant information.

Will site visits be conducted?

Yes! Site visits will be conducted to verify the information submitted, as well as assess operational processes at the facility's site and its' relationship to the environment..

EMA Site Inspections



How long is the permit valid for?

The permit is valid for up to five years from the date of issue.

Does the Public have access to

Information on Permits?

The public has access to information on a permit via the Water Polluters Register at the EMA's Head Office located at #8 Elizabeth Street. St. Clair, Port-of-Spain.

Is there an appeal process for the permit?

Appeals can be made to The Environmental Commission, regarding final decisions of the EMA.

Where do I submit my permit application?

The application for a Water Pollution Permit should be submitted by hand at the EMA's Head Office located at:

#8 Elizabeth Street
St. Clair, Port of Spain,

Or at the satellite offices located at:

#2 Dumfries Road,
La Romaine,

Or, for Tobago:

Department of Natural Resources and the Environment
Unit 6 to 8
Highmoor Center
78 Wilson Road
Scarborough

There are many forms and notices associated with the Permitting Process, the following outlines some of them and their descriptions.

DOCUMENT	DESCRIPTION
D	Notice of Requirement to Apply for a Water Pollution Permit.
E	Application for a Water Pollution Permit to Discharge Water Pollutants from Manufacturing, Commercial, Institutions and Mining Operations.
F	Application for a Water Pollution Permit to Discharge Water Pollutants from Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations and Aquatic Animal Production Facilities.
G	Application for a Water Pollution Permit to Discharge Water Pollutants from Sewage Treatment Facilities.
H	Notice of Refusal to Issue a Water Pollution Permit.
I	Application for Variation of Permit Conditions.
J	Application for the Transfer of a Water Pollution Permit.
Ka	Notice of Intention to Revoke, Suspend or Vary a Water Pollution Permit.
Kb	Notice of Refusal of an Application for Variation, Transfer or Renewal of a Water Pollution Permit.
L	Notice of Decisions of The Authority.
M	Claim For Omission of Information from the Water Polluters Register.
N	Discharge Monitoring Data Report (DMDR).

The following diagram outlines the Permitting process.

Permitting Flow Chart

