



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND NDU

ENVIRONMENTAL GUIDELINE No. 28

DECOMMISSIONING OF TREATMENT PLANTS OR

INDUSTRIAL PLANTS

1.0 Purpose of guideline

This environmental guideline has been prepared by the Ministry of Environment & NDU to ensure that all environmental issues are duly taken into consideration by stakeholders.

2.0 Nature of development

During recent years, many environmental nuisances associated with Demolition of buildings or decommissioning of treatment plants or industrial plants have been observed in Mauritius. These were characterised by indiscriminate dumping of construction, metal and other wastes on vacant lands, River banks or water courses that constituted eyesores, besides being environmental hazards.

3.0 Potential impacts

The major environmental issues associated with the decommissioning of treatment plants or industrial plants are noise, air pollution, dust and generation of hazardous wastes. The different aspects, impacts and nuisances associated with such activities are listed below:

Activity	Aspects	Impacts/ Nuisances
Decommissioning phase		
Demolition of plants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use of heavy machinery - Generation of debris - Solid wastes generation -Generation of hazardous wastes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Noise, dust -contamination of water courses - Dumping into sensitive areas such as water bodies, marshy land etc - Risk of contamination of water bodies
Reinstating of area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Use of heavy machinery -leveling of site using excavated material 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Noise -Dust - Aesthetics and visual impacts

4.0 Siting of activity

- Not applicable

5.0 Environmental conditions

The following environmental conditions shall be observed:-

- (i) The noise level during demolition works shall be within the permissible limits as per the Environment Protection (Environmental Standards for Noise) Regulations 1997. The noise exposure limits as per the above regulation are as follows:

Industrial noise		Neighbourhood noise	
7:00 – 21:00	60*dB(A) Leq	7:00 – 18:00	60 dB(A) Leq
21:00 – 7:00	55*dB(A) Leq	18:00 - 21:00	55 dB(A) Leq
		21:00 – 7:00	50 dB(A) Leq

* A tonal character adjustment of +5 dB(A) should be applied to the measured value where the noise has a definite continuous note such as a whine or hiss.

- (ii) All hazardous wastes, including chemicals shall be disposed of as per the provisions of Environment Protection (Standards for Hazardous wastes) Regulations 2001.
- (iii) The site of works shall be fenced and screened to protect site from strong winds and to contain dust propagation.
- (iv) The following measures shall be taken so as to abate the visual impacts during demolition works:
- Visual screening / fencing of works
 - Proper location of equipment and machinery on site
 - No encroachment of demolition wastes on pavements and roads
- (v) Demolition works within residential areas shall be carried out during normal working hours (8:00 -17:00).
- (vi) The demolition wastes shall be used as filler material. Any excess wastes shall be disposed of to an authorized site as recommended by the Ministry of Local Government.
- (vii) No debris shall be burned on the site.
- (viii) No nuisance by way of noise dust shall be caused to the public and surrounding environment during site preparation, infrastructural works and during operation of the activity.

- (ix) The Department of Environment of the Ministry of Environment and NDU shall be informed in writing of the dates of commencement of works on site and operation of the activity for monitoring purposes.

6.0 Enforcement

Under Section 13 of the Environment Protection Act 2002, the enforcing agencies for the different environmental medium or pollutants are as follows:

S. No	Environmental media/ pollutant	Enforcing Agency
1	Noise	Ministry of Health and Quality of Life
2	Solid wastes, hazardous wastes	Ministry of Local Government
3	Air pollution	Ministry of Environment

The above-mentioned enforcing agencies shall monitor compliance with the conditions falling under their purview.

7.0 Offences

Any person who fails to comply with any regulations/standards referred to in this guideline shall commit an offence and shall:

- (i) on a first conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding 50, 000 rupees and to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years.
- (ii) on a second or subsequent conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding 100,000 rupees and to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 8 years.

For further information, please contact
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