

STANDARDS COMPLIANCE & BUSINESS SUCCESS

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The presentation will cover



Permitting & Benefits

Introduction

Regulatory framework

Functions of EPA

Environmental Assessment

Ghana Standards

What EPA does to ensure compliance

Reporting Regime

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Introduction

- According to the KPMG “Doing Business in Ghana” 2023 Report Ghana is the third largest U.S. export market for goods in Sub Saharan Africa. Beyond its traditional industries of **agriculture**, mining - and more recently, oil and gas production, Ghana’s digital, financial services, education, and franchising sectors are also growing fast.
- However, the EPA is mandated to ensure that businesses operate in an environmentally sustainable manner.



- The 1992 Constitution of Ghana mandates every citizen to protect and safeguard the environment. Article 41(k).
- The Environmental Protection Agency was established by the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1994 (Act 490), as the lead Agency for Environmental Protection in Ghana.
- The Agency is mandated under the EPA Act 1994, Act 490 to oversee, coordinate and regulate all issues regarding the environment in Ghana.
- The Act prescribes a set of environmental governance and management functions that are required to adequately protect and manage the environment in Ghana.



Functions of the EPA

- The Agency serves as a Co-Manager of the environment
- The Act gives the Agency its present mandate of *Advising, Regulating, Enforcing & Prosecuting*
- The Act specifies 19 functions of the Agency including the following:
- Advising the Minister, Coordination of bodies concerned with environmental issues, permitting, compliance & enforcement, training, research, awareness creation, monitoring etc.
- The Agency also prescribes standards and guidelines relating to pollution of air, water, land
- The EPA collaborates with other government Agencies (FDA, GSA, FID, GIPC, MOFA etc.) to ensure the protection of the Agency

Environmental Assessment

- Environmental assessment encompasses all processes used to identify, assess and mitigate impacts on the environment.
- In line with the EPA Act 490, 1994 & the Environmental Assessment (EA) Regulations 1999, LI 1652 the Agency has the mandate to ensure that businesses do not create adverse effects on the environment.
- To ensure sound environmental management practices the Agency ensures that businesses comply with the laid down EA regulations and other laws depending on the nature of the business

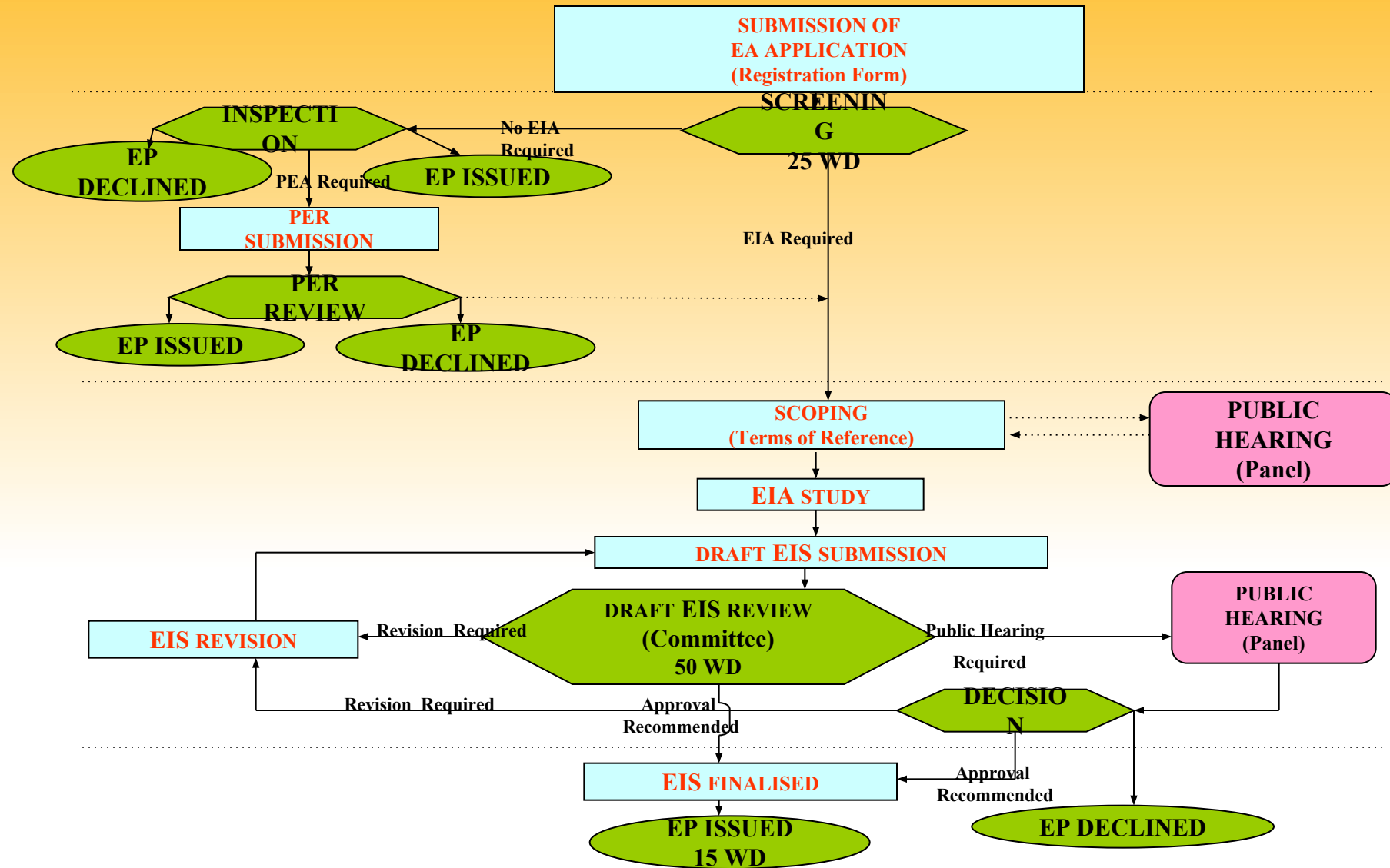


Regulation 1 (2). No person shall commence activities in respect of any undertaking which in the opinion of the Agency has or is likely to have adverse effect on the environment or public health unless, prior to the commencement, the undertaking has been registered by the Agency in respect of the undertaking.

Regulation 1. (1) No person shall commence any of the undertakings specified in Schedule 1 to these Regulations or any undertaking to which a matter in the Schedule relates, unless prior to the commencement, the undertaking has been registered by the Agency and an environmental permit has been issued by the Agency in respect of the undertaking.

In addition
Schedules 1 & 2 of the LI 1652
also help business owners identify
the types of businesses that require
environmental permits

ADMINISTRATIVE FLOW CHART OF THE EA PROCEDURE



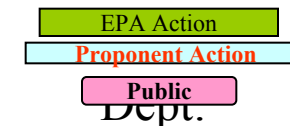
EIA - ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
 EIS - ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
 PER - PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT
 PEA - PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
 PH - PUBLIC HEARING
 WD - WORKING DAYS REQUIRED FOR REVIEW

EA - ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
 EP - ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT



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Environmental Permits

- Permits are issued with schedules after fees are paid refer to Fees and Charges (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2022
- These schedules contain conditions which businesses must comply with
- The Permit has a validity period and a seal and is usually signed by a Regional, Deputy Executive or Executive Director
- Conditions include compliance with all regulatory requirements of institutions such as, FDA, GNFS, etc
- Compliance with other laws such as Hazardous and Electronic Waste Control and Management Act, 2016 Act 917, Hazardous, electronic and other waste (classification) Control and Management Regulations, 2016, L.I. 2250

Importance & benefits of an Environmental Permit

- Compliance with environmental laws
- Provides guidance on both constructional & operational aspects of your business which minimizes impacts on the environment
- Plays an important role in ensuring that the right technology is used
- Provides input into resource use efficiency
- Provides information on other regulatory regimes
- Helps in ensuring sustainable management of the environment

Compliance with Ghana Standards

- The permit schedules also contain information on the relevant Ghana Standards that a business needs to comply with
- (GS 1212:2019) Environmental Protection- Requirement for effluent discharge.
- (GS: 1236:2019) Environment and Health protection –Requirements for ambient air quality and point source/ stack emissions.
- (GS 1222:2018) Health Protection – Requirement for ambient noise control
- (GS 1253:2018) Acoustics – Guide for measurement of outdoor sound levels
- (GS 1219:2018) Environment and the Health Protection – Requirement for motor vehicle emissions

Renewals & Reporting

- Permits are valid for 18 months after which;
- Annual environmental reports are required
- Environmental Management reports are also required
- Depending on the activity quarterly monitoring reports are also required
- The cycle then continues with permits being renewed every 18 or 36 months depending on the activity

EPA Compliance and Enforcement

- To ensure compliance and enforcement
 - Periodic monitoring is carried out by the Agency
 - Environmental quality monitoring results are compared with Ghana standards
 - Enforcement notices are issued to those who are non-compliant
 - Businesses can be shut down
 - Permits can be revoked
 - We also carry out several stakeholder meetings to raise awareness on the benefits of sound environmental management practices

How does compliance with EPA laws enhance businesses success?

- The process helps to reduce risk (community interference)
- It provides an avenue for resource use efficiency (water, energy, waste etc.)
- It reduces cost of production
- It helps to build the brand-leading to other market opportunities & competitive advantage
- It enhances revenue
- It enhances credibility in both the local and International markets
- It ensures sound environmental management practices ultimately leading to sustainable development.





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