

**LAWS OF GUYANA**

**RADIO-ACTIVE MINERALS ACT  
CHAPTER 65:04**

Act  
22 of 1947  
Amended by  
1 of 1972

**Current Authorised Pages**

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**Note**  
**on**  
**Subsidiary Legislation**

**This Chapter contains no subsidiary legislation.**

**Note**  
**on**  
**Revision Date**

**As this Act was amended by the Adaptation of Laws Act 1972 (1 of 1972), it was considered desirable to revise the whole of this Chapter, on its first publication, up to the date of that Act (25th May 1972) instead of 23rd February, 1970 (Republic Day).**

## CHAPTER 65:04

## RADIO-ACTIVE MINERALS ACT

## ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

## SECTION

1. Short title.
2. Interpretation.
3. Radio-active minerals not to be prospected for or mined, except under licence.
4. Holder of licence to report his operations thereunder.
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SCHEDULE—Radio-active minerals.

1953 Ed.  
c. 198

An Act to regulate and control prospecting and mining for Radio-Active Minerals and the export thereof and for purposes connected therewith. [22 of 1947]

[26TH JULY, 1947]

1. This Act may be cited as the Radio-Active Minerals Act. Short title.
2. In this Act— Interpre-

“licence” means a licence issued under this Act; tation.

“mine” includes all operations for the intentional winning or obtaining of any radio active mineral;

“permit” means a permit issued under this Act;

“prospect” means to search for any radio-active mineral, and includes such working as is reasonably necessary to enable the prospector to test the radio-active mineral-bearing qualities of the area concerned;

“radio-active mineral” means any substance specified in the Schedule. Schedule.

Radio-active minerals not to be prospected for or mined, except under licence.

Holder of licence to report his operations thereunder. [1 of 1972]

3. No person shall prospect for or mine, or attempt to prospect for or mine, on State lands, Government lands or any other lands in Guyana, any radio-active mineral except under and in accordance with a licence granted by the Minister.

4. Every holder of a licence shall within the first ten days of every month furnish the Commissioner of Geological Surveys and Mines (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the Commissioner) with a true report in writing of the prospecting and mining operations carried on by him in the month immediately preceding that in which the report is made with respect to radio-active minerals.

Radio-active minerals not to be exported, except under permit.

Grant of licence or permit to be in the absolute discretion of the Minister.

5. No person shall export, or attempt to export, from Guyana any radio-active mineral except under and in accordance with a permit granted by the Minister in that behalf.

6. The Minister may—

(a) grant or refuse to grant a licence or a permit or;

(b) revoke at any time any licence or permit;

and he shall be under no obligation to assign any reason for refusing to grant, or for revoking, a licence or permit.

Form of licence and permit. [1 of 1972]

7. Every licence, and every permit, shall be in such form and for such period and be subject to the payment of such fee as the Minister may from time to time determine, and shall contain such terms and conditions as the Minister may from time to time think fit to impose.

Discovery of radio-active mineral to be reported to Commissioner. [1 of 1972]

8. (1) Every person not being the holder of a licence who discovers any radio active mineral in Guyana shall forthwith furnish a true report in writing to the Commissioner of the discovery, and in the report furnish particulars of the radio-active mineral and of the place where, and the circumstances under which, it was discovered.

(2) Where the radio-active mineral is discovered on any land which is not State land, it shall not be removed from such land except with the consent of the Commissioner.

Power of Minister to amend Schedule. [1 of 1972] Offences.

9. The Minister may, by order from time to time alter, vary or in any manner amend the Schedule.

10. (1) Every person who—

(a) not being the holder of a licence, prospects for or mines, or attempts to prospect for or mine, any radio-active mineral in any part of Guyana; or

(b) being the holder of a licence prospects for or mines, or

attempts to prospect for or mine, any radio-active mineral in any part of Guyana in contravention of any term or condition of his licence, or otherwise than in accordance with any term or condition thereof; or

(c) being the holder of a licence, fails to comply with any of the requirements of section 4; or

(d) not being the holder of a permit, exports or attempts to export from Guyana any radio-active mineral; or

(e) being the holder of a permit, exports or attempts to export from Guyana any radio-active mineral in contravention of any term or condition of his permit, or otherwise than in accordance with any term or condition thereof; or

(f) obtains, or attempts to obtain, a licence or permit by means of any false statement or representation; or

(g) not being the holder of a licence, discovers a radio-active mineral in Guyana and fails to comply with any of the requirements of section 8; shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of five thousand dollars and to imprisonment for twelve months.

(2) The court before which any person is convicted of an offence under subsection (1) shall order the forfeiture to the State of any radio-active mineral or prospecting or mining apparatus derived from, or employed in the commission of, any act in respect of which such person was convicted.

11. (1) Any member of the police force not below the rank of non-commissioned officer, and any officer or class of officers authorised in writing by the Minister in that behalf, may, for the purpose of enforcing this Act without warrant or other legal process—

Powers of search, arrest and seizure. [1 of 1972]

(a) enter and search any place where he has reasonable grounds for suspecting that an offence under this Act has been, or is about to be, committed;

(b) search any person whom he has reasonable grounds for suspecting to have committed, or to be about to commit, an offence under this Act:

Provided that it shall not be lawful for a male person to search a female person;

(c) arrest any person whom he has reasonable grounds for suspecting to have committed, or to be about to commit, an offence under this Act:

(d) seize any radio-active mineral or prospecting or mining apparatus connected therewith which he has reasonable grounds to suspect to be or to be about to be, derived from,

or employed in, the commission of any offence under this Act.

(2) Where any person is arrested, or any radio-active mineral or prospecting or mining apparatus is seized, under subsection (1), such person, mineral or apparatus shall, as soon as practicable, be brought before the nearest magistrate.

(3) Every person who obstructs, or attempts to obstruct, whether actively or passively, any person specified or referred to in subsection (1) in the execution or purported execution of his duties, under this section, shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of one thousand dollars and to imprisonment for six months.

Saving.

12. Nothing in this Act shall be construed as absolving any person from compliance with any provision or requirement of any other Act or of any regulations made thereunder.

Power to  
make  
regulations.  
(1 of 1972)

13. The Minister may make such regulations for giving better effect to this Act as he may from time to time deem to be necessary or expedient.

ss. 2 and 9.  
Reg. 8/1949]

#### SCHEDULE

##### RADIO-ACTIVE MINERALS

1. Any mineral containing uranium or thorium and, in particular and without prejudice to the generality of this paragraph, the substances hereinafter set out in this schedule.

2. Minerals of the pitchblende group, including pitchblende, uraninite, ulrichite, broggerite, cleveite, and related mineral species.

3. Torbernite and autunite.

4. Secondary uranium minerals other than torbernite and autunite, including rutherfordine, uranite, uranophane, gummite, thorogummite, uranocircite, kasolite, becquerelite, and other silicates, hydrates, carbonates, phosphates or arsenates of uranium.

5. Carnotite and tyuyamunite and related uranium-bearing vanadate ores.

6. Uranium-bearing niobate-titanate-tantalate ores, including euxenite, polycrase, blomstrandine, priorite, samarskite, fergusonite, betafite, and related minerals.

7. Monazite, thorite and thorianite.