

**LAWS OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

**SAWMILLS ACT**

**CHAPTER 66:02**

**Act**  
**35 of 1943**  
Amended by  
34 of 1947  
45 of 1979

**Current Authorised Pages**  
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1-7                              1/1980

**Note  
on  
Subsidiary Legislation**

This Chapter contains no subsidiary legislation.

**Note  
on  
Adaptation**

Under paragraph 6 of the Second Schedule to the Law Revision Act (Ch. 3:03) the Commission amended certain references to public officers in this Chapter. The Minister's approval of the amendments was signified by L.N.52/1980, but no marginal reference is made to this Notice where any such amendment is made in the text.

**Note  
on  
Revision Date**

As this Act was amended by the Law Revision (Miscellaneous Amendments) (No. 1) Act 1979 (Act 45 of 1979), this Chapter has been revised up to 31st December 1979, instead of the normal revision date (31st December 1977).

## CHAPTER 66:02

## SAWMILLS ACT

## ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

## SECTION

1. Short title.
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## SCHEDULE.

**An Act relating to Sawmills.**

[18TH NOVEMBER 1943]

1950 Ed.  
Ch. 24 No.3.35 of 1943.  
Commencement.

1. This Act may be cited as the Sawmills Act.

Short title.

2. In this Act—

Interpretation.

“Conservator” means the Conservator of Forests;

“licensee” means a person who is the holder of a sawmill licence issued under this Act;

“owner” in respect of a sawmill includes any person having possession thereof;

“sawmill” means a mill designed and used to break down and convert logs into boards, planks or scantlings or to resaw the boards, planks or scantlings into boards, planks or scantlings of smaller dimensions, but does not include a turnery or machine shop where only furniture, toys or other wooden products are manufactured;

“sawmill licence” means a licence to operate a sawmill issued by the Conservator under the provisions of this Act.

Sawmill  
licences.  
[45 of 1979].

3. (1) No sawmill shall be operated except by a person duly licensed under this Act.

(2) A separate application shall be made and a separate licence shall be granted in respect of each sawmill.

Schedule.

(3) A sawmill licence shall be, as nearly as may be, in the form set out in the Schedule signed by the Conservator and shall expire on 31st December of the year during which it is granted.

(4) The fee for a sawmill licence shall be five hundred dollars for a year or part of a year.

(5) A sawmill licence shall not be transferable.

Application for  
sawmill  
licences.

4. (1) Applications for sawmill licences shall be made in writing to the Conservator, shall contain a postal address to which all communications may be sent, and shall be in such form as the Conservator may require.

(2) No application for a sawmill licence shall be entertained by the Conservator unless made and signed by the owner of the sawmill or, if the owner is absent from Trinidad and Tobago, or incapacitated, by the owner's duly authorised agent residing in Trinidad and Tobago; but if the owner is a partnership, the application may be made and signed by a partner residing in Trinidad and Tobago, and if the owner is a corporation the application may be made and signed by a director, manager or secretary thereof residing in Trinidad and Tobago.

(3) No sawmill licence shall be issued by the Conservator until the prescribed fee has been paid to the Comptroller of Accounts.

(4) On due application made the Conservator may grant a licence subject to such terms and conditions as he may think fit, or he may refuse to grant a licence, if he deems the refusal to be necessary or desirable in the interests of the public and he may suspend for such time as he thinks fit, or revoke, any licence issued by him upon breach by the licensee of any sawmill, or by the manager or person for the time being in charge thereof, of any of the provisions of this Act, of any of the terms and conditions subject to which the licence was granted or for any other reason which in his opinion renders the suspension or revocation necessary or desirable in the interests of the public. Any person

aggrieved by the withholding, suspension or revocation of any licence may, not later than one month after the withholding, suspension or revocation, appeal to the Minister whose decision shall be final.

5. Whenever a sawmill is operated without a sawmill licence applicable thereto being in force, the owner thereof and the manager or any person for the time being in charge thereof is each liable on summary conviction to a fine of three thousand dollars or to imprisonment for six months, and in the case of a continuing offence to a further penalty of one hundred and fifty dollars for each day during which the offence continues.

Penalty for operating sawmill without licence.

6. The Conservator shall at the beginning of every month cause to be published in the *Gazette* a list of sawmill licences issued by him during the preceding month; and if at any time any such licence is suspended or revoked, the Conservator shall notify the suspension or revocation, in like manner as aforesaid.

List of sawmill licences to be published.

7. (1) The Conservator may by order signed by him or on his behalf and served as hereinafter provided order the licensee of a sawmill or (in case the licensee is absent from Trinidad and Tobago or cannot be found or is incapable to act) the manager or person for the time being in charge of the sawmill to furnish to the Conservator a return or a series of returns in such form and at or within such time or times as may be specified in the order regarding any or all of the following matters:

Conservator may ask for returns.

- (a) the stocks on hand of timber and timber products which are the property of the licensee;
- (b) the volume of timber or timber products (whether the property of the licensee or otherwise) received at the sawmill;
- (c) the volume of the timber products obtained from the conversion of timber received;
- (d) the names and addresses of the persons from whom timber or timber products have been bought by the licensee, or who have sent timber or timber products for treatment at the sawmill;
- (e) the number of persons employed at the sawmill and the number of man-days worked.

(2) An order made by the Conservator under this section shall be deemed to have been duly served on the licensee of a sawmill or on the manager or person for the time being in charge

thereof if the same is served personally or is delivered to some person at, or sent by post to, the postal address set out in the relevant application form.

(3) Every return made under this section shall be signed by the person making it and shall be forwarded to the Conservator at his office at Port-of-Spain.

(4) Any person who fails to comply with any requirement of an order made under this section or with any requirements of subsection (3), or who furnishes any return which is false in a material particular knowing or having reason to believe that it is false as aforesaid is guilty of an offence against this Act.

Books to be kept.

**8.** (1) Every licensee shall keep, or cause to be kept, books and records in the English language recording all such particulars as may be necessary to enable him to render any such return or furnish any such information as the Conservator would be entitled to require under this Act.

(2) Such books and records shall be kept in a safe place on the premises on which the sawmill is situated.

(3) Any licensee who fails to comply with the requirements of this section in any respect is guilty of an offence against this Act.

Power of entry and inspection.

**9.** (1) The Conservator, any Forest Officer, or any member of the Police Service may, at any time when any sawmill is open, enter the premises on which any sawmill is situated for the purpose of inspecting the books and records required by section 8 to be kept and the timber and timber products therein situated; and the licensee of the sawmill or the manager or the person for the time being in charge thereof shall, on demand made by the Conservator or other officer aforesaid, produce for inspection all such books, records, timber and timber products, and shall answer truthfully all such questions as may be asked by the Conservator or other officer aforesaid with reference to the books, records, timber, timber products or with reference to any of the entries in, or contents of, the books and records.

(2) Any person who fails to comply with the requirements of this section in any respect is guilty of an offence against this Act.

Penalties.

**10.** Any person who is guilty of an offence against this Act for which no special penalty is provided is liable on summary conviction to a fine of three thousand dollars or to imprisonment for six months.

**11.** The Minister may make regulations for the purpose of giving effect to any of the provisions of this Act or to any matters incidental or ancillary thereto. Power to make regulations.

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**SCHEDULE**

Section 3.

**SAWMILLS ACT**

Mr. ...., of ....., Trinidad and Tobago, being the owner of a sawmill situate at ....., in the Ward of ....., in the County of ....., is hereby licensed to operate such sawmill.

This licence will expire on 31st December next.

.....  
*Conservator of Forests.*

Date: .....