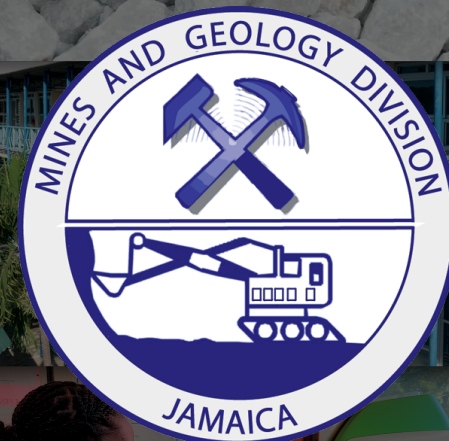




MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND MINING



Frequently Asked Questions



Managing Geological Assessts for National Development...



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Q. WHAT ARE THE TYPES OF LEASES AND LICENCES PROSPECTIVE OPERATORS CAN APPLY FOR ?

Prospective Mining/Quarry Operators can apply for:

- Quarry License (QL), Mining Lease(ML), Special Mining Lease (SML), Special Exclusive Prospecting Lease (SEPL), Prospecting Right (PR)

Q. HOW OFTEN ARE ROYALTIES AND TAXES COLLECTED ?

A. Royalties and taxes are collected quarterly

Q. WHAT IS A DRAFT SURVEY?

A. A draft survey is an exercise conducted to determine the weight of a ship in an aim to derive the weight of its cargo (bauxite or alumina). Archimedes' Principle is the foundation upon which the draft survey is based. The weight of the vessel is directly proportional to the amount of water it displaces, therefore the heavier the vessel, the deeper it will be submerged.

Q. WHAT SERVICES ARE OFFERED BY THE LABORATORY ?

- The Laboratory offers: Environmental Testing, Geochemical Testing, Physical Testing, Food Testing, Sample Preparation

Q. WHAT IS LAND REHABILITATION ?

A. Land Rehabilitation is the process of restoring an area of land to its natural or near natural state due to disturbances such as mining or quarrying. After restoration, the land is usually used for residential or commercial activities such as farming.

Q. WHAT IS A RESTORATION BOND ?

A. A Restoration Bond is an agreed sum that serves as insurance towards the rehabilitation of mined or quarried land. It provides a guarantee that the land being disturbed due to mining or quarrying will be returned to either its approximate or original state, fit enough for development use.

Q. WHAT IS THE QUARRIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (QAC) ?

A. The QAC is an advisory committee appointed by the Minister responsible for mining under Section 6 of the Quarries Control Act, (1983). The committee comprises of private and public sector members and is charged with the responsibility of advising the Minister on:

I. Matters of general policy with respect to quarries.

II. Applications for licenses, or upon any other question, referred to it by the Minister

Q. WHAT IS A QUARRY ZONE ?

A. A quarry zone is a designated area for the operation of quarries.

Q. WHAT ARE LAWS AND REGULATIONS THE GOVERN THE OPERATIONS OF THE MINING AND QUARRYING SECTOR ?

A. The mining and quarrying sector is governed by the Mining Act (1947), Mining Health and Safety Regulations, The Quarries Control Act (2015), Mineral Vesting Act, Quarries Regulations, Gunpowder and Explosive Regulations.

Q. WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MINING AND A QUARRYING ?

A. Mining is the removal of materials or minerals from below the earth's surface to be processed for use in other forms. For example, bauxite is mined to be processed into alumina. Quarrying is the removal of material from the surface of the earth for use as is. For example, limestone and gravel are quarried to be used in the construction industry.

Q. WHAT IS MINERAL EXPLORATION ?

A. Mineral exploration is the process of surveying an area with the hopes of identifying minerals for eventual commercial extraction.

Q. WHAT ARE THE STEPS TAKEN IN MINERAL EXPLORATION

The following steps are taken in the exploration process:

I. An application is made for an Exclusive Prospecting License (EPL) or a Special Exclusive Prospecting License (SEPL) Right.

II. The application is accepted if all legal requirements are satisfied.

III. Notice for pending exploration is published in multiple media channels.

IV. If no objection is raised by the public the license will be granted.

V. The community in where the exploration will take place is sensitized about the pending activities.

VI. Activities commences (Collection of Samples)

VII. Samples collected are analyzed (locally or internationally)

VIII. A report is then submitted to the Commissioner of Mines

Q. WHAT IS HIGH PURITY LIMESTONE ?

A. High purity limestone is defined as carbonate rock that contains greater than 97% calcium carbonate.

Q. WHAT IS THE JAMAICA MINERAL INFORMATION SYSTEM ?

A. The Jamaica Mineral Information System is a web map showcasing the development of minerals and quarrying activities throughout Jamaica.

Q. WHAT IS THE JAMAICA MINING CADASTRE ?

A. The Jamaica Mining Cadastre (JAMINCAD) is a computerized database that allows users to locate different types of known mineral deposits across Jamaica. It highlights the boundaries of areas licensed for mining, location of housing, roads, upcoming developments and protected areas bordering mined and unmined deposits. The platform also allows for the tracking of mining licence applications.

Q. WHAT MATERIALS AND MINERALS ARE COMMERCIALY MINED AND QUARRIED IN JAMAICA ?

A. Materials that are mined and quarried commercially are:

1. Bauxite
2. Limestone (including High Purity Limestone)
3. River Aggregates
4. Sand

Q. WHAT SORT OF MAPS ARE PRODUCED BY MGD ?

- A.
- Geological Maps
 - Geo-Hazard maps/Landslide Susceptibility Maps
 - Engineering Geology Maps

Q. WHAT DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS ARE REVIEWED BY THE MGD ?

A. Development applications processed by the MGD are:

1. Building Applications
2. Subdivision Applications
3. Environmental Permits
4. General enquires from the public on the geological characteristics of locations earmarked for development.

Q. HOW MANY REGISTERED MINING AND QUARRY COMPANIES ARE IN JAMAICA ?

A. As of January 2023, there are over 400 registered mining and quarrying companies in Jamaica

Q. WHAT IS THE PROCESS INVOLVED IN APPLYING FOR A QUARRY LICENCES ?

To obtain a Quarry License the following steps must be completed:

1. An application obtained from the MGD's office or downloaded from the website, is completed and submitted with the required documents.
2. A fee of \$25,000 is paid at the MGD.
3. The applicant is advised to post a Notice of Intension to Quarry within the region of the proposed site.
4. A copy of the application is forwarded to a number of government and government related agencies requesting inspection of the proposed quarry site and their recommendations.
5. The application is reviewed by the Quarries Advisory Committee (QAC).
6. If the application is reviewed by the QAC, the Commissioner of Mines will inform the applicant that a restoration bond will need to be posted.
7. After the bond is satisfied, the relevant documentations are prepared and sent to the permanent secretary for submission to the Minister for signing.
8. After the Minister signs, the license is returned to the MGD for official registration.