

A Step-by-Step Guide to Permitting and Licensing for a New Solar Manufacturing Facility in Mauritius

A Comprehensive Roadmap to Compliance and Operational Readiness.

Content Partner: J. v. G. technology GmbH

Turnkey solar module production lines — since 1997

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Technical Overview: Permitting and Licensing for Solar Factories in Mauritius



Created as part of the PVKnowHow Knowledge Network



Prepared by J.v.G. Technology GmbH



European specialists in turnkey solar module production lines

Key Project Data

9–15 mo

Total Timeline

Full permitting cycle from initial application to Operating Permit

4

Permit Phases

BLP → EIA → Trade License → Operating Permit

EDB

Key Authority

Economic Development Board — primary regulatory gateway

EIA

Critical Path Step

Environmental Impact Assessment — longest and most complex phase

📄 Project Type: Solar module manufacturing facility · Process Focus: Permitting & licensing · Region: Mauritius · Source: PVKnowHow / J.v.G. Technology GmbH

Regulatory Framework Overview

Economic Development Board (EDB)

- Primary single-window authority for industrial investment projects
- Coordinates inter-ministerial approvals and investor guidance
- Issues Business License Permit (BLP) — mandatory first step
- Monitors compliance throughout the licensing lifecycle

Ministry of Environment & Other Bodies

- Ministry of Environment oversees the EIA process and approval
- Ministry of Commerce issues the Trade License post-EIA
- Local Authority (municipality) grants the Operating Permit
- All bodies interact sequentially — no parallel fast-tracking available

Four Permitting Phases at a Glance



Each phase is a formal prerequisite for the next. Gaps in documentation or incomplete submissions are the primary causes of delay — early preparation is critical.

Phase 1 – Business License Permit (BLP)

Purpose & Scope

- Confirms legal authorization to establish a manufacturing operation in Mauritius
- Submitted to and issued by the EDB
- Defines the approved business activity scope and site

Key Documentation Required

- Business plan with production capacity and technology description
- Site plan and land ownership / lease documentation
- Company incorporation and ownership structure

Typical Duration

- 4–8 weeks under normal processing conditions
- Delays common if business plan lacks technical specificity
- EDB may request supplementary clarifications – build in buffer time


Phase 2 – Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): Critical Path

Why EIA Is the Critical Path

- Longest phase in the permitting sequence — often 4–9 months
- Required for all industrial manufacturing facilities above defined thresholds
- No Trade License can be issued without a completed and approved EIA
- Scoping, study preparation, public consultation, and ministry review all required

EIA Process Requirements

- Appointment of a licensed EIA practitioner — mandatory
- Environmental scoping report submitted for Ministry approval
- Public disclosure period — objections can extend timeline
- Final EIA report reviewed by Ministry of Environment
- Conditional approval common — mitigation measures must be accepted

 The EIA is the single largest source of schedule risk. Under-resourced or poorly scoped EIA submissions are the most common cause of project delays exceeding 12 months.

Phases 3 & 4 – Trade License and Operating Permit

Phase 3 – Trade License (Ministry of Commerce)

- Issued only after EIA approval is formally confirmed in writing
- Authorizes commercial manufacturing activity at the approved location
- Requires submission of EIA approval certificate, BLP, and updated site plan
- Typical processing time: 3–6 weeks from complete submission

Phase 4 – Operating Permit (Local Authority)

- Final operational clearance issued by the relevant municipal or district authority
- Site inspection often required before permit issuance
- Confirms building compliance, fire safety, and utility connections
- Typical processing time: 2–4 weeks after satisfactory inspection

Full Permitting Timeline: 9–15 Months

- 1 — Months 1–2 — Pre-Application Preparation**

Site selection finalized; legal entity established; technical documentation assembled
EIA practitioner appointed; initial EDB consultation recommended
- 2 — Months 2–3 — BLP Submission & Approval**

Business License Permit submitted to EDB; supplementary Q&A period possible
Approval typically within 4–8 weeks from complete submission
- 3 — Months 3–11 — EIA Process (Critical Path)**

Scoping → study preparation → public consultation → Ministry review
Most variable phase: 4–9 months depending on complexity and objections
- 4 — Months 11–13 — Trade License**

Submitted immediately upon EIA approval; processing 3–6 weeks
All prior permits and approvals must be complete and current
- 5 — Months 13–15 — Operating Permit & Facility Commissioning**

Local authority site inspection; Operating Permit issued
Facility legally authorized to begin commercial production

Key Risks and Pitfalls

EIA Underestimation

- Treating EIA as a formality – it is a substantive technical and legal process
- Hiring an inexperienced or under-resourced EIA practitioner
- Failure to engage community stakeholders proactively

Documentation Gaps

- Incomplete business plans lacking production technology detail
- Site documentation inconsistencies between phases
- Missing utility connection or infrastructure confirmation letters

Sequencing Errors

- Attempting to begin construction before Operating Permit is issued
- Parallel-tracking phases that are legally sequential
- Assuming verbal authority clearance substitutes for formal written approval

- ⊗ Projects that begin construction prematurely – before all permits are issued – risk stop-work orders, financial penalties, and permit revocation.

FAQ Highlights

Can permitting phases run in parallel?

No. Each permit phase is a legal prerequisite for the next. EDB BLP must precede EIA submission; EIA approval must precede Trade License application.

Is foreign investment eligible for EDB support?

Yes. The EDB is the designated investment promotion authority and actively facilitates foreign-invested industrial projects, including solar manufacturing.

What triggers the EIA requirement?

Manufacturing facilities above defined land use or operational thresholds are required to undergo a full EIA. Solar module production qualifies under industrial activity classifications.

Can an experienced turnkey provider assist with permitting?

A proven turnkey manufacturing concept brings documented technical data that significantly accelerates documentation preparation — particularly for EIA and BLP submissions.

Strategic Conclusion

1

Plan the EIA First

The EIA is the critical path – resource it fully from day one; all other phases depend on its completion

2

Use Proven Documentation

An experienced European turnkey provider brings pre-validated technical data that reduces preparation time for all permit submissions

3

Build in Contingency

Target 15 months for planning purposes – a 9-month outcome is achievable only with complete documentation and no public objections

- ❑ A proven turnkey manufacturing concept – with documented processes, certified module designs, and prior EIA-compatible technical data – materially reduces the permitting burden for first-time manufacturers entering the Mauritius market.

About the Content Partner

J. v. G. technology GmbH – The DESERT Company

Founded in 1997 in Bavaria, Germany. Family-owned engineering company specializing in turnkey solar module production lines.

More than 90 factory projects delivered worldwide.

On-site team training included – no prior manufacturing experience required.

Key areas:

Turnkey PV manufacturing lines | DESERT Technology® |
TÜV-certified module designs | Factory planning to production

www.jvg-thoma.com

Contact

J.v.G. Technology GmbH

Möningerberg 1a, 92342 Freystadt, Germany

info@jvg-thoma.de | www.jvg-thoma.com

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