



REGULATORY FEES FACT SHEET

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

September 2009

WHAT YOU OWE – INTERNATIONAL AND SATELLITE SERVICES LICENSEES FOR FY 2009

This *Fact Sheet* pertains to: international public fixed licensees (Part 23), international (HF) broadcast licensees (Part 73), providers of international bearer circuits, earth station licensees (Part 25), geostationary space station licensees (Part 25) and direct broadcast satellite licensees (Part 100), and non-geostationary orbit satellite system licensees (formerly low earth orbit satellite systems) (Part 25).

Licensees owe regulatory fees for each license held as of **October 1, 2008**, even if a license expired after October 1, 2008. In instances where a license or authorization is transferred or assigned after October 1, 2008, the fee must be paid by the party that is the licensee or holder of the authorization on the date that the fee payment is due.

If an earth station's license limits its operational authority to a particular satellite system that is not yet operational, a regulatory fee payment for the earth station is not due until the first satellite in the system becomes operational pursuant to section 25.121(d) of our rules.

Earth Stations

Who Must Pay: VSAT and Equivalent C-Band Antennas: Earth station systems comprising very small aperture terminals making up authorized networks operating in the 12 and 14 GHz bands that provide a variety of communications services to other stations in the network. Each system, authorized pursuant to blanket licensing procedures in Part 25 of the Commission's rules, consists of a network of technically-identical small fixed-satellite earth stations which often includes a larger hub station. Entities holding these types of authorizations will be assessed a regulatory fee per authorization or registration, as well as a fee for each associated Hub Station.

Mobile Satellite Earth Stations: Mobile satellite service providers operate under blanket licenses for mobile antennas (transceivers) which are smaller than one meter and provide voice or data communications, including position location information, for mobile platforms such as cars, buses or trucks.

Earth Station Antennas: Transmit/Receive and Transmit-Only Antennas: These licensees include private carriers and common carriers that operate fixed-satellite earth station antennas to provide telephone, television, data, and other forms of communication, including antennas used to transmit and receive and transmit-only. Also included in this category are telemetry, tracking and control (TT&C) earth stations and transportable earth stations.

Earth Station Antennas: Receive-Only Antennas: The Commission does not assess regulatory fees for receive-only earth station antennas.

Notice of Billing: Beginning in FY 2009, Earth Station licensees will not receive a pre-completed regulatory fee bill (FCC Form 159-B) in the mail for their Earth Station licenses. A regulatory fee bill will be created, but this bill will be available for viewing only by accessing the Commission's electronic payment system, or Fee Filer. Earth Station licensees are also required to make regulatory fee payments for all other fee categories as well.

Fee Calculation: \$210 per license or authorization, and \$210 for each associated Hub Station.

Geostationary Orbit Space Stations and Direct Broadcast Satellite Service

Notice of Billing: Geostationary orbit space station and DBS licensees will not receive a pre-printed regulatory fee bill (FCC Form 159-B) from the Commission for their satellite space station authorization(s). A regulatory fee bill will be created, but this bill will be available for viewing only by accessing the Commission's electronic payment system, or Fee Filer. Geostationary space station licensees are also required to make regulatory fee payments for all other fee categories as well.

Who Must Pay: Entities authorized to operate space stations in geostationary orbit¹ in accordance with section 25.121(d) and direct broadcast satellites (Part 100).

Fee Calculation: \$127,175 per operational space station in geostationary orbit in accordance with section 25.121(d) as of October 1, 2008. A fee payment is required "upon the commencement of operation of a system's first satellite as reported annually pursuant to sections 25.142(c), 25.143(e), 25.145(g), or upon certification of operation of a single satellite pursuant to section 25.121(d)." Multiple technically identical geostationary satellites co-located at the same orbital location will be considered one station for the purpose of per-space station regulatory fee calculation.

Non-Geostationary Orbit Satellite Systems

Notice of Billing: Non-Geostationary orbit space station and DBS licensees will not receive a pre-printed regulatory fee bill (FCC Form 159-B) from the Commission for their satellite space station authorization(s). A regulatory fee bill will be created, but this bill will be available for viewing only by accessing the Commission's electronic payment system, or Fee Filer. Non-Geostationary space station licensees are also required to make regulatory fee payments for all other fee categories as well.

¹ Domestic and international satellites, positioned in orbit to remain approximately fixed relative to the earth, authorized to provide communications between satellites and earth stations on a common carrier or private carrier basis in accordance with section 25.121(d).

Who Must Pay: Entities authorized to operate systems of satellites in non-geostationary orbit under Part 25 to provide communications between satellites and earth stations on a common carrier or private carrier basis.

Fee Calculation: \$137,225 per operational system in non-geostationary orbit.² A fee payment is required “upon the commencement of operation of a system's first satellite as reported annually pursuant to sections 25.142(c), 25.143(e), 25.145(g), or upon certification of operation of a single satellite pursuant to section 25.121(d).”

International Bearer Circuits

Who Must Pay: In a *Second Report and Order* (“*Submarine Cable Order*”) released on March 24, 2009, the Commission adopted a new submarine cable bearer circuit methodology that assessed regulatory fees on a per cable landing license basis, with higher fees for larger submarine cable systems and lower fees for smaller systems, without distinguishing between common carriers and non-common carriers.³ For the other categories of international bearer circuits - common carrier and non-common carrier satellite facilities and common carrier terrestrial facilities - the *Submarine Cable Order* retained the existing regulatory fee methodology of assessing fees on a per 64 kbps circuit basis. For these categories of bearer circuits, the fee amount should be based on active circuit counts (used or leased) as of December 31, 2008.

International Terrestrial and Satellite. Regulatory fees for International Bearer Circuits are to be paid by facilities-based common carriers that have active (used or leased) international bearer circuits as of December 31, of the prior year in any terrestrial or satellite transmission facility for the provision of service to an end user or resale carrier, which includes active circuits to themselves or to their affiliates. In addition, non-common carrier satellite operators must pay a fee for each circuit sold or leased to any customer, including themselves or their affiliates, other than an international common carrier authorized by the Commission to provide U.S. international common carrier services. “Active circuits” for these purposes include backup and redundant circuits. In addition, whether circuits are used specifically for voice or data is not relevant in determining that they are active circuits.

² A LEO system consists of one or more satellites operating in a non-geostationary satellite constellation. Payment is required for any LEO System that has one or more satellites operating pursuant to sections 25.142(c), 25.143(e), 25.145(g), or upon certification of operation of a single satellite pursuant to section 25.121(d) as of October 1, 2008.

³ See *Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2008*, Second Report and Order, 24 FCC Rcd 4208, ¶ 1 (May 12, 2009) (“*Submarine Cable Order*”).

Fee Calculation: \$0.75 per active 64 KB circuit or equivalent.

TYPE OF FEE	REGULATORY FEE PAYMENT	PAYMENT TYPE CODE
International Bearer Circuits: Terrestrial Common Carrier; Satellite Common Carrier; and Satellite Non-Common Carrier. Capacity as of December 31, 2008	\$0.75 per active (used or leased) 64 KB circuit or equivalent	0976

Submarine Cable Systems

Submarine cable: Regulatory fees for submarine cable systems will be paid annually, per cable landing license, for all submarine cable systems operating as of December 31 of the prior year. The fee amount will be determined by the Commission for each fiscal year. Payment, if mailed using Form 159-E (generated from Fee Filer), should be sent to: FCC, International, P.O. Box 979084, St. Louis, MO 63197-9000.

TYPE OF FEE Submarine Cable Systems (capacity as of December 31, 2008)	REGULATORY FEE PAYMENT	PAYMENT TYPE CODE
< 2.5 Gbps	\$15,075	0986
2.5 Gbps or greater, but less than 5 Gbps	\$30,125	0987
5 Gbps or greater, but less than 10 Gbps	\$60,250	0988
10 Gbps or greater, but less than 20 Gbps	\$120,525	0989
20 Gbps or greater	\$241,025	0990

International Public Fixed Radio and International (HF) Broadcast Stations

After a 90-day congressional notification period in which we did not receive any objections, the fee categories of International Public Fixed Radio and International High Frequency (HF) Broadcast Stations were eliminated from regulatory fee assessment, effective August 18, 2009. The elimination of these two categories is based on the Commission's actions in the FY 2009 Regulatory Fees *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order* and the FY 2009 Regulatory Fees *Report and Order*.⁴ Hence, beginning in FY 2009, there will not be a regulatory fee obligation

⁴ See *Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2009*, MD Docket No. 09-65, Notice of

for licensees holding International Public Fixed Radio and International (HF) Broadcast Station licenses.

SUMMARY OF FEES FOR INTERNATIONAL SERVICES

TYPE OF FEE	REGULATORY FEE PAYMENT	PAYMENT TYPE CODE
Earth Stations	\$210 per station or Hub Station	0973
Geostationary Orbit Space Stations and Direct Broadcast Satellite Service Licensees	\$127,175 per operational station	0974
Non-Geostationary Orbit Satellite Systems	\$137,225 per operational system	0975
International Bearer Circuits: Terrestrial Common Carrier; Satellite Common Carrier; and Satellite Non-Common Carrier (capacity as of December 31, 2008)	\$0.75 per active 64 KB circuit or equivalent. *See further guidance and table below.	0976
< 2.5 GBps	\$15,075	0986
2.5 GBps or greater, but less than 5 Gbps	\$30,125	0987
5 Gbps or greater, but less than 10 Gbps	\$60,250	0988
10 Gbps or greater, but less than 20 Gbps	\$120,525	0989
20 Gbps or greater	\$241,025	0990

* Equivalent circuits include the 64 KB circuit equivalent of larger bit stream circuits (e.g., the 64 KB equivalent of a 2.048 MB circuit is 30) and analog circuits such as 3 and 4 KHz circuits used for international services. The number of equivalent 64 KB circuits for analog television channels is given by the following table:

ANALOG TELEVISION CHANNEL SIZE (MHz)	NO. OF EQUIVALENT 64 KB CIRCUITS
36	630
24	288
18	240

Proposed Rulemaking and Order, 24 FCC Rcd 5966 (2009) (“FY 2009 NPRM and Order”), and *Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2009*, MD Docket No. 09-65, Report and Order, 74 FR 40089 (August 11, 2009) (“FY 2009 Report and Order”).

<u>Actual Speed</u>	<u>in 64 Kbps Units</u>
1 T-1	24
1 E-1	30
1 DS-3	630
1 STM	1,890
5 Gbps	60,480
10 Gbps	120,960

MANDATORY USE OF FEE FILER

Beginning this year, licensees must begin the process of filing their annual regulatory fee obligation by entering the Commission's Fee Filer system with a valid FRN and password. Only Form 159-E vouchers generated from Fee Filer will be permitted to be submitted with regulatory fee payments to U.S. Bank.

There are many benefits to licensees for using the Commission's Fee Filer system: 1) expeditious submission of payment; 2) no postage or courier costs (when paid electronically through Fee Filer); 3) fewer errors caused by illegible handwriting or payments submitted without an FRN number or the appropriate data attributes (*e.g.*, payers will avoid receiving delinquency notices because of payment submission errors); 4) improved recordkeeping and payment reconciliation; 5) reduced administrative burden on both licensees and on Commission staff in processing regulatory fee payments; 6) less expensive than a wire transfer; and 7) a reduced burden of preparing, mailing, and storing paper documents.

Bear in mind that the U.S. Treasury rejects credit card transactions greater than \$99,999.99 from a single credit card in a single day, in accordance with U.S. Treasury Bulletin No. 2005-03. If you need to pay \$100,000.00 or more, then you must pay via a check, Automated Clearing House (ACH) debit, or wire transfer. An ACH debit can be accomplished via Fee Filer.

If you choose to pay by check or money order, you must print the fee filer generated Form 159-E voucher and mail it along with your check/money order to U.S. Bank. If you choose to pay via wire transfer, you must fax your Form 159-E voucher to U.S. Bank one hour in advance of the wire transaction.

-FCC-