



# REGULATORY FEES FACT SHEET

Federal Communications Commission  
45 L St., NE  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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## WHAT YOU OWE – MEDIA SERVICES LICENSEES FOR FY 2021

On August 26, 2021, the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) released *Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021*, Report and Order and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 21-98 (*FY 2021 Regulatory Fees Report and Order*). This document is available for viewing at <http://www.fcc.gov/regfees>. The Commission's automated filing and payment system (Fee Filer) is now available for filing and viewing of FY 2021 regulatory fees. **Regulatory fee payments MUST BE RECEIVED by the Commission no later than 11:59 PM, Eastern Daylight Time, on September 24, 2021.**<sup>1</sup> While FY 2021 regulatory fees will not become effective until the rulemaking is published in the Federal Register, regulatees, at their own discretion, may submit payments at any time before the FY 2021 regulatory fees due date.

Commission licensees and regulatees should consult the *FY 2021 Regulatory Fees Report and Order* for specific information concerning regulatory fee payment obligations, the regulatory fee process, and regulatory fee requirements for payment. The Commission also publishes industry-specific guidance in *FY 2021 - Who Owes Fees and What Is My Fee*, and can be found on the Commission website at <http://www.fcc.gov/regfees>.

This Fact Sheet applies to licensees of media services such as: commercial AM and FM radio stations, FM translators and boosters, commercial full power television stations, low power television (LPTV) stations, and TV boosters. Media licensees and permit holders owe regulatory fees for each license or permit held as of **October 1, 2020, even if the license or permit expired after October 1, 2020**. In instances where a license or permit is transferred or assigned after October 1, 2020, the fee must be paid by the party that is the licensee or holder of the permit on the date that the fee payment is due.

### Commercial AM and FM Radio Stations

**Who Must Pay:** Licensees of commercial AM and FM radio stations, and holders of construction permits for new AM and FM stations, provided that such licenses or permits were granted on or before October 1, 2020, even if the license or permit expired after October 1, 2020. Beginning in FY 2015 and thereafter, licensees that hold broadcast auxiliary licenses (e.g., remote pickup stations, aural broadcast STLs, intercity relay stations, and low power auxiliary stations) no longer need to pay regulatory fees on their broadcast auxiliaries because the regulatory fee for broadcast auxiliary licenses was eliminated.

**AM Expanded Radio Stations Are No Longer Exempt:** In FY 2014, the Commission lifted the exemption on AM Expanded Band radio stations (1605-1705 kHz), thereby assessing regulatory fees on these radio stations on the same basis as AM standard band licensees. After providing the exemption for nearly two decades to reduce interference in the standard band, the Commission determined that there is no longer a reason to provide this

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<sup>1</sup> The Commission has instituted a mandatory electronic payment policy, which means that licensees will not be able to make regulatory fee payments by check, money order, or cashier's check. Only credit card, ACH, debit cards, and wire transfer payments will be accepted. Please make sure that your electronic fee payment is made and the transaction is complete by the due date of FY 2021 regulatory fees.

regulatory fee exemption to AM broadcasters. Consequently, AM Expanded Band radio stations will be assessed a regulatory fee on the same basis as standard band licensees.

**Additional Media Regulatory Fee Information:** In addition to regulatory fee information located at the Commission’s website at <http://www.fcc.gov/regfees>, additional media regulatory fee data can be viewed at the website: [www.fccfees.com](http://www.fccfees.com).

**Fee Requirement:** Fees for AM and FM radio station licensees are based upon class of station and population served. A station’s class is based upon the station’s most recent license that was granted on or before October 1, 2020. Fee amounts for AM and FM radio stations are indicated below. Fee amounts for individual stations may be obtained by accessing the Commission’s internet website at <http://www.fcc.gov/regfees>. If you have a commercial AM and FM radio station that is not listed, please contact the FCC Help Desk at (877) 480-3201, Option 6, or (202) 418-1995.

Holders of construction permits (CPs) for new AM and FM stations for which a license to cover the construction permit had not been granted as of October 1, 2020, owe \$610 (AM) and \$1,070 (FM), for each construction permit held, regardless of station class or population served.

<b>Payment Type Codes and Payment Amounts For FY 2021 Radio Station Regulatory Fees</b>						
<b>Population Served</b>	<b>AM Class A</b>	<b>AM Class B</b>	<b>AM Class C</b>	<b>AM Class D</b>	<b>FM Classes A, B1 &amp; C3</b>	<b>FM Classes B, C, C0, C1 &amp; C2</b>
<b>&lt;=25,000</b>	2117 \$975	2123 \$700	2129 \$610	2135 \$670	2141 \$1,070	2147 \$1,220
<b>25,001 - 75,000</b>	2018 \$1,465	2124 \$1,050	2130 \$915	2136 \$1,000	2142 \$1,605	2148 \$1,830
<b>75,001 - 150,000</b>	2119 \$2,195	2125 \$1,575	2131 \$1,375	2137 \$1,510	2143 \$2,410	2149 \$2,745
<b>150,001 - 500,000</b>	2120 \$3,295	2126 \$2,365	2132 \$2,060	2138 \$2,265	2144 \$3,615	2150 \$4,125
<b>500,001 - 1,200,000</b>	2121 \$4,935	2127 \$3,540	2133 \$3,085	2139 \$3,390	2145 \$5,415	2151 \$6,175
<b>1,200,001 - 3,000,000</b>	2122 \$7,410	2128 \$5,320	2134 \$4,635	2140 \$5,090	2146 \$8,130	2152 \$9,270
<b>3,000,001 – 6,000,000</b>	2179 \$11,105	2180 \$7,975	2181 \$6,950	2182 \$7,630	2183 \$12,185	2184 \$13,895
<b>&gt;6,000,000</b>	2193 \$16,665	2194 \$11,965	2195 \$10,425	2196 \$11,450	2197 \$18,285	2198 \$20,850

Regulatory Fee Group or Category	Regulatory Fee	Payment Type Code
Construction Permit for New AM Station	\$610	2115
Construction Permit for New FM Station	\$1,070	2116
Broadcast Auxiliary Station License	No Fee	

### VHF and UHF Full Service TV Stations

**Who Must Pay:** Licensees of commercial VHF and UHF Digital TV Stations and holders of construction permits for new stations, provided that such licenses or permits were granted on or before October 1, 2020, even if the license or permit expired after October 1, 2020.

**Fee Requirement:** Beginning in FY 2020, television regulatory fees have been calculated on the basis of population rather than on the basis of the Nielsen Designated Market Area (DMA). For a complete listing of FY 2021 television regulatory fees by call sign, please visit the following website: <https://www.fcc.gov/licensing-databases/fees/regulatory-fees>. The document to view is, “Appendix G – FY 2021 Television Station Regulatory Fees by Call Sign” (excel spreadsheet) in the above website.

For holders of construction permits (CPs) of new television stations for which a license had not been granted as of October 1, 2020, the fee is \$5,100 for Digital Television construction permits.

Commercial Digital Stations:	Regulatory Fee	Payment Type Code
Television Fee Factor per population	\$.007793	2110
Construction Permit for New Digital Station	\$5,100	2158
Broadcast Auxiliary Station	No Fee	

**Note:** Since television regulatory fees have now become a quantity-based fee, the television fee amount is calculated in Fee Filer by multiplying the Fee Factor of \$.007793 by a specified quantity. The “quantity” field in Fee Filer represents the population count, which may be slightly different than what is listed in Appendix G of the *FY 2021 Regulatory Fees Report and Order* due to rounding. Also, there is no separate Satellite Television fee. Satellite Television fees are calculated just like full-service television fees by multiplying the population count by the Television Fee Factor of \$.007793.

**Note:** Beginning in FY 2013 and thereafter, the Digital Television fee category (UHF/VHF) and (the former) Satellite TV fee category were assigned bill numbers.<sup>2</sup> In FY 2021, the Digital Television fee category will not be assigned bill numbers.

<sup>2</sup> A bill is considered an account receivable in the Commission’s accounting system. Bills reflect the amount owed and have a payment due date of the last day of the regulatory fee payment window. Consequently, if a bill is not paid by the due date, it becomes delinquent, a 25% penalty is immediately assessed on the delinquent fee debt, and the debt is subject to our debt collection procedures. See 47 CFR §§ 1.1161(c), 1.1164(f)(5), and 1.1910.

## LPTV, TV Translators, FM Translators & FM Boosters

After the full power television digital conversion in 2009, a number of special TV translators (known as digital replacement translators) were licensed to full-service television stations to cover a part of the primary station's contour that was left unprotected. These translators did not extend the protected contour of the primary station, but operated within the same protected contour and provided the same programming as the primary station. Therefore, these TV translators were granted licenses under the same facility number and the same facility call sign as the primary station. Because these TV translators do not extend the coverage of the primary station, but operate solely within the primary station's protected contour, these special TV Translators are deemed to be "replacement translators" and are not assessed a separate TV Translator regulatory fee. We also note that there are no longer any licensed TV Boosters following the transition of full power television stations to digital operations.

The Commission has established a category of "Class A TV" into which some Low Power TV (LPTV) stations were re-classified.<sup>3</sup> Therefore, LPTV stations that were re-classified as Class A TV as of October 1, 2000, as well as existing LPTV stations licensed as of October 1, 2020, should pay the LPTV fee of \$320 for FY 2021.

The digital transition deadline for analog Low Power and TV Translator stations was July 13, 2021, and some stations are still completing construction of their digital facilities. Because the digital transition for these services had not concluded by October 1, 2020, some of these facilities may not have transitioned from analog to digital service prior to that date. During this period of transition, licensees of Low Power, Class A, and TV Booster facilities may be operating in analog mode, in digital mode, or in an analog and digital simulcast mode. Therefore, for regulatory fee purposes, a fee will be assessed for each facility operating either in an analog or digital mode. In instances in which a licensee is simulcasting in both analog and digital modes, a single regulatory fee will be assessed for the analog facility and its corresponding digital component, but not for both facilities.

**Who Must Pay:** Holders of LPTV, TV translator licenses, and FM translator and booster licenses whose license was granted on or before October 1, 2020, even if the license expired after October 1, 2020.

**Fee Requirement:** Fees are owed on a per-license basis as follows:

Type of License	Regulatory Fee	Payment Type Code
Low Power Television Station, TV Translator	\$320	2167
FM Translator/FM Booster	\$320	2168

### FEE EXEMPTION CLAIMS

The Commission will no longer accept fee exemption claims at the website [www.fccfees.com](http://www.fccfees.com). Exempt facilities are required to submit to the Commission a copy of the documentation that proves their fee-exempt status. Acceptable documentation may include a copy of an IRS determination letter showing the IRS section 501(c) tax exemption status, state or government certifications, or proof of the station's noncommercial educational (NCE) broadcast status at the Commission. For additional information on exemptions, please see

<sup>3</sup> See *Establishment of a Class A TV Service*, MM Docket No. 00-10, Report and Order, 15 FCC Rcd. 6355 (May 10, 2000).

*FY 2021 Regulatory Fees, General Exemptions* at <http://www.fcc.gov/regfees>. Documentation must be received by the due date of September 24, 2021. To claim a fee exemption, email your documentation to the Commission at [ARINQUIRIES@fcc.gov](mailto:ARINQUIRIES@fcc.gov).

### MANDATORY USE OF FEE FILER

The use of the online Fee Filer system for filing regulatory fees has not changed since the process was first initiated in FY 2009. Licensees and regulatees must first enter the Commission's Fee Filer system with a valid FRN and password, and follow the online prompts to review their data and submit an electronic fee payment. Use of the online Fee Filer system is mandatory, and **payments in the form of checks, money orders, and cashier's checks will not be accepted.**<sup>4</sup> In making a wire transfer, please fax the "Wire Transfer Instructions" from Fee Filer to the Federal Communications Commission at (202) 418-2843, or send an e-mail to [RROGWIREFAXES@fcc.gov](mailto:RROGWIREFAXES@fcc.gov) at least one hour before initiating the wire transfer (but on the same business day) so as not to delay crediting their account. These Wire Transfer Instructions contain valuable information (e.g. FRN, Voucher Number, Payer Name, and the Amount of the Wire) that will help to post the payment more quickly, and avoid costly delays that could result in penalties and interest for missing the payment due date. Please note that most wire transfers initiated after 6:00 p.m. (EDT) will be credited the next business day.

As a reminder, all Regulatory Fees **MUST** be filed, submitted and paid through the Fee Filer System with the exception of wire transfers, which are initiated from the payor's financial institution. If you have any questions, please contact 877-480-3201, Option 6. In addition, we are also urging all entities who send wire transfer payments to include the Voucher Number, Payor Name, and Payor FRN in the wire description area.

### LIMITATIONS ON CREDIT CARD TRANSACTIONS

In accordance with U.S. Treasury Announcement No. A-2014-04 (July 2014), the amount that can be charged on a credit card for transactions with federal agencies is \$24,999.99.<sup>5</sup> Transactions greater than \$24,999.99 will be rejected. This limit applies to single payments or bundled payments of more than one bill. Multiple transactions to a single agency in one day may be aggregated and treated as a single transaction subject to the \$24,999.99 limit. Customers who wish to pay an amount greater than \$24,999.99 should consider available electronic alternatives such as Visa or MasterCard debit cards, ACH debits from a bank account, and wire transfers. Each of these payment options is available after filing regulatory fee information in Fee Filer. Further details will be provided regarding payment methods and procedures at the time of FY 2021 regulatory fee collection in Fact Sheets, available at <https://www.fcc.gov/regfees>.

Regulatory fee payments that exceed the U.S. Treasury limit and are rejected by Treasury, causing a payment not to meet the required payment deadline, will be subject to interest, fees, and a 25% late payment penalty.

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<sup>4</sup> Payers should note that this change will mean that entities that have previously paid both regulatory fees and application fees at the same time by paper check will no longer be able to do so because regulatory fees payments by paper check will no longer be accepted.

<sup>5</sup> Customers who owe an amount on a bill, debt, or other obligation due to the federal government are prohibited from splitting the total amount due into multiple payments. Splitting an amount owed into several payment transactions violates the credit card network and Fiscal Service rules. An amount owed that exceeds the Fiscal Service maximum dollar amount, \$24,999.99, may not be split into two or more payment transactions in the same day by using one or multiple cards. Also, an amount owed that exceeds the Fiscal Service maximum dollar amount may not be split into two or more transactions over multiple days by using one or more cards.

## DE MINIMIS REGULATORY FEE LEVEL

Regulatees whose total FY 2021 annual regulatory fee liability, including all categories of fees for which payment is due, is \$1,000 or less are exempt from payment of FY 2021 regulatory fees. Thus, if the sum total of all annual FY 2021 regulatory fees is \$1,000 or less, you are considered *de minimis* and do not have to pay FY 2021 regulatory fees. If you are *de minimis*, you will not need to report this exemption to the Commission. The *de minimis* threshold applies only to filers of annual regulatory fees (not regulatory fees paid through multi-year wireless filings), and it is not a permanent exemption. Rather, each regulatee will need to re-evaluate and re-calculate its regulatory fee liability each year in order to determine whether they meet the *de minimis* exemption. Regulatees are responsible for calculating their own total fee obligation to determine whether they qualify for this *de minimis* exemption. The Commission reserves the right to request documentation that supports a *de minimis* exemption claim.

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