



REGULATORY FEES FACT SHEET

Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20554

August 28, 2023

WHAT YOU OWE – CABLE TELEVISION SYSTEMS, IPTV, AND DIRECT BROADCAST SATELLITE (DBS) FEES FOR FY 2023

On August 10, 2023, the Federal Communications Commission (Commission or FCC) released *Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2023; Review of the Commission's Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees*, Report and Order, FCC 23-66 (*FY 2023 Regulatory Fees Report and Order*). This document is available for viewing at <http://www.fcc.gov/regfees>. **Regulatory fee payments must be received by the Commission no later than 11:59 PM, Eastern Daylight Time, on September 20, 2023.**¹ While FY 2023 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 2023 regulatory fees due date.

The Commission has discontinued the use of the Fee Filer system and incorporated this payment system into the Commission Registration System (CORES). To use CORES, you need to be registered with the FCC at <https://apps2.fcc.gov/fccUserReg/pages/login.htm>. Once your FCC username is registered and verified, you can access CORES and select the option to associate your existing FRN to that username, if you have not already done so. To make a FY 2023 regulatory fee payment, login to the following website using your username and password: <https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/userLogin.do>.

- Cable television systems operating on **October 1, 2022** must pay a regulatory fee per subscriber² for all of the community units (CUIDs) in which they operate. The number of basic cable subscribers that were served on **December 31, 2022** should be used as the basis from which to calculate the fee payment. Regulatory fees should be paid with a single line aggregate total in CORES without having to list your individual CUIDs.
- Internet Protocol TV (IPTV) subscribers are to be included in the Cable Television Systems fee category and assessed a regulatory fee at the same rate as cable television fees.³ The number of IPTV subscribers that were served on **December 31, 2022** should be used as the basis from which to calculate the fee payment.

¹ 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, 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 for FY 2023 regulatory fees.

² Number of Subscribers in a Community Unit = Number of single family dwellings + Number of individual households in multiple dwelling units (e.g., apartments, condominiums, mobile home parks, etc.) paying at the basic subscriber rate + Number of bulk-rate customers + Number of courtesy and free service. (Note: Bulk-Rate Customers = total annual bulk rate charge ÷ basic annual subscription rate for individual households).

³ See *Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2013*, Report and Order, 28 FCC Rcd 12351, 12363, para. 33 (*FY 2013 Report and Order*).

- Direct Broadcast Satellites (DBS) are to be included in the Cable Television Systems fee category and assessed a regulatory fee at the same rate as IPTV and cable television fees.⁴ The number of DBS subscribers that were served on **December 31, 2022** should be used as the basis from which to calculate the fee payment.
- Cable television system operators and licensees of Cable TV Relay Service (CARS) facilities must pay a regulatory fee if they were operating or held a CARS license on October 1, 2022, even if a facility's license expired after October 1, 2022. In instances where a license or authorization is transferred or assigned after October 1, 2022, 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. When submitting payment, CARS licensees should individually list each of their CARS call signs.

Notice of Billing: CARS licensees will not receive a pre-completed regulatory fee bill (FCC Form 159-B) in the mail for their CARS licenses. A regulatory fee bill will be created, but this bill will be available for viewing only by accessing the CORES System. CARS licensees are also required to make regulatory fee payments for all other non-billed holdings, such as cable systems and other fee services.

- The following chart provides the fees due for FY 2023.

TYPE OF FEE	REGULATORY FEE PAYMENT	PAYMENT TYPE (PTC) CODE
Cable System Subscriber Fee, Including IPTV and DBS Subscribers Note: DBS providers should pay their fees using PTC Code 2371, not 2392	\$1.23 per subscriber	2371
CARS License	\$1,720 per license	2370

MANDATORY USE OF THE COMMISSION REGISTRATION SYSTEM (CORES)

All regulatory fee payors are required to use CORES for fee filing and payment via Automated Clearing House (ACH), credit card or Visa or MasterCard debit card. Licensees and regulatees must first enter CORES with a valid username and password at: <https://apps2.fcc.gov/fccUserReg/pages/login.htm>, and follow the online prompts to review their data and submit an electronic fee payment. **The use of CORES to pay regulatory fees is mandatory, and payments in the form of checks, money orders, and cashier's checks will not be accepted.**⁵ To make a wire transfer payment, please enter CORES and submit your fee information, and then complete and fax your financial institution's wire cover memo and an electronic FCC Form 159 (or equivalent) to the Commission at (202) 418-2843, or send an e-mail to RROGWIREFAXES@fcc.gov at least one hour before initiating the wire transfer (but on the same business day) so as not to delay crediting the account. Please include your **FRN, Voucher Number, Payer Name,**

⁴ See *FY 2013 Report and Order* at 12363, para. 33.

⁵ Payors 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.

and the Amount of the Wire in the wire cover memo to assist us in posting your payment quickly, and to avoid costly delays that could result in penalties and interest for missing the payment due date. Please see the following link, <https://www.fcc.gov/licensing-databases/fees/wire-transfer>, for information on initiating a wire transfer. Please note that most wire transfers initiated after 6:00 p.m. (EDT) will be credited the next business day. Please also note that ACH, credit card and debit card transactions could take several days for payment to be transferred from a financial institution to the Commission. **Therefore, any automated notification you receive from the Commission or Pay.gov following submission of your payment is an acknowledgement of submission, and not an acknowledgement that the funds have been received by the Commission. As a precaution, fee payors should always check their bank statements or with their banks to ensure that the funds have actually been transferred to the Commission by the regulatory fee payment due date.**

LIMITATIONS ON CREDIT CARD TRANSACTIONS

In accordance with *Treasury Financial Manual*, Volume I, Part 5, Chapter 7000, Section 7055.20, *Transaction Maximums*, the highest amount that can be charged on a credit card for transactions with federal agencies is \$24,999.99.⁶ 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 submitting regulatory fee information through CORES. Further details will be provided regarding payment methods and procedures at the time of FY 2023 regulatory fee collection in Fact Sheets, available at <https://www.fcc.gov/regfees>. The *Treasury Financial Manual*, Volume I, Part 5, Chapter 7000, *Credit and Debit Card Collection Transactions* was updated on June 23, 2022, effective October 1, 2022, that reduced the credit card limit of intra-governmental transactions (government-to-government) from \$24,999.99 to \$10,000.00.

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.

DE MINIMIS REGULATORY FEE LEVEL

Regulatees whose total FY 2023 annual regulatory fee liability, including all categories of regulatory fees for which payment is due, is \$1,000 or less are exempt from payment of FY 2023 regulatory fees. Thus, if the sum total of all annual FY 2023 regulatory fees is \$1,000 or less, you are considered *de minimis* and do not have to pay FY 2023 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

⁶ 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 the Bureau of Fiscal Service rules. An amount owed that exceeds the \$24,999.99 maximum, 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 \$24,999.99 maximum may not be split into two or more transactions over multiple days by using one or more cards. *Treasury Financial Manual*, Volume I, part 5, Chapter 7000, Section 7055.30, *Prohibition on Splitting Transactions*.

established by the Commission's annual regulatory fee order. Regulatees are responsible for calculating their 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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