

# REGULATORY FEES FACT SHEET

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

September 11, 2024

# WHAT YOU OWE - MEDIA SERVICES LICENSEES FOR FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2024

On September 6, 2024, the Federal Communications Commission (Commission or FCC) released Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2024; Review of the Commission's Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees, Report and Order, FCC 24-93 (FY 2024 Regulatory Fees Report and Order). This document is available for viewing at <a href="http://www.fcc.gov/regfees">http://www.fcc.gov/regfees</a>. Regulatory fee payments must be received by the Commission no later than 11:59 PM, Eastern Daylight Time, on September 26, 2024. While FY 2024 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 2024 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 <a href="https://apps2.fcc.gov/fccUserReg/pages/login.htm">https://apps2.fcc.gov/fccUserReg/pages/login.htm</a>. 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 2024 regulatory fee payment, login to the following website using your username and password: <a href="https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/userLogin.do">https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/userLogin.do</a>.

Commission licensees and regulatees should consult the FY 2024 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 under the heading FY 2024 - Who Owes Fees and What Is My Fee, which can be found on the Commission website at <a href="http://www.fcc.gov/regfees.">http://www.fcc.gov/regfees.</a>

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, TV translators, low power television (LPTV) stations, and low power Class A (Class A) television stations. Media licensees and permit holders owe regulatory fees for each license or permit held as of **October 1, 2023**, even if the license or permit expired after October 1, 2023. In instances where a license or permit is transferred or assigned after October 1, 2023, the fee must be paid by the party that is the licensee or permit holder on the date that the fee payment is due.

### Commercial AM and FM Radio Stations

**Who Must Pay:** Uccensees 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, 2023, even if the license or permit expired after October 1, 2023. AM expanded band radio stations are assessed a regulatory fee on the same basis as standard band licenses. Licensees that hold

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<sup>&</sup>lt;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, 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 2024 regulatory fees.

broadcast auxiliary licenses (e.g., remote pickup stations, aural broadcast STLs, intercity relay stations, and low power auxiliary stations), however, are not required to pay because the regulatory fee for broadcast auxiliary licenses was eliminated.

**Additional Media Regulatory Fee Information:** In addition to regulatory fee information located at the Commission's website at <a href="http://www.fcc.gov/regfees">http://www.fcc.gov/regfees</a>, additional media regulatory fee data can be viewed at the website: <a href="http://www.fccfees.com">www.fccfees.com</a>. Beginning in FY 2023, U.S. 2020 Census data has been incorporated into the AM and FM radio station population determination.

**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, 2023. Fee amounts for AM and FM radio stations are indicated below. Fee amounts for individual stations may be obtained by accessing CORES at <a href="https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/userLogin.do">https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/userLogin.do</a> or viewing the stations at the website <a href="https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/userLogin.do">www.fccfees.com</a>. If you have a commercial AM and FM radio station that is not listed, please contact the Financial Operations help desk at (877) 480-3201, Option #6, or (202) 418-1995.

Holders of construction permits for <u>new AM</u> and FM stations for which a license to cover the construction permit had not been granted as of October 1, 2023, owe \$585 (AM) and \$1,025 (FM), for each construction permit held, regardless of station class or population served.

FY 2024 RADIO STATION REGULATORY FEES								
Population Served	AM Class A	AM Class B	AM Class C	AM Class D	FM Classes A, B1 & C3	FM Classes B, C, C0, C1 & C2		
<=10,000	2459	2460	2461	2462	2463	2464		
	\$560	\$405	\$350	\$385	\$615	\$700		
10,001 - 25,000	2417	2423	2429	2435	2441	2447		
	\$935	\$675	\$585	\$645	\$1,025	\$1,170		
25,001 – 75,000	2418	2424	2430	2436	2442	2448		
	\$1,405	\$1,015	\$880	\$970	\$1,540	\$1,755		
75,001 – 150,000	2419	2425	2431	2437	2443	2449		
	\$2,105	\$1,520	\$1,315	\$1,450	\$2,305	\$2,635		
150,001 - 500,000	2420	2426	2432	2438	2444	2450		
	\$3,160	\$2,280	\$1,975	\$2,180	\$3,465	\$3,955		
500,001 –	2421	2427	2433	2439	2445	2451		
1,200,000	\$4,730	\$3,415	\$2,960	\$3,265	\$5,185	\$5,920		
1,200,001 –	2422	2428	2434	2440	2446	2452		
3,000,000	\$7,105	\$5,130	\$4,445	\$4,900	\$7,790	\$8,890		
3,000,001 –	2479	2480	2481	2482	2483	2484		
6,000,000	\$10,650	\$7,690	\$6,665	\$7,345	\$11,675	\$13,325		
>6,000,000	2493	2494	2495	2496	2497	2498		
	\$15,980	\$11,535	\$10,000	\$11,025	\$17,515	\$19,995		

Regulatory Fee Group or Category	Regulatory Fee	Payment Type Code
Construction Permit for New AM Station	\$585	2415
Construction Permit for New FM Station	\$1,025	2416
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 <u>new</u> stations, provided that such licenses or permits were granted on or before October 1, 2023, even if the license or permit expired after October 1, 2023.

**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). In FY 2024, the television population counts reflect 2020 U.S. Census data. For a complete listing of FY 2024 television regulatory fees by call sign, please visit the following website: <a href="https://www.fcc.gov/licensing-databases/fees/regulatory-fees">https://www.fcc.gov/licensing-databases/fees/regulatory-fees</a>. The document to view is titled "Appendix G – FY 2024 Television Station Regulatory Fees by Call Sign" in the above website.

For holders of construction permits of <u>new</u> television stations for which a license had not been granted as of October 1, 2023, the fee is \$5,200 for digital television construction permits.

Commercial Digital Stations	Regulatory Fee	Payment Type Code
Television Fee Factor per population	\$.006598	2410
Construction Permit for New Digital Station	\$5,200	2458
Broadcast Auxiliary Station	No Fee	

<u>Note</u>: Since television regulatory fees have now become a quantity-based fee, the television fee amount is calculated in CORES by multiplying the fee factor of \$.006598 by a specified quantity. The "quantity" field in CORES represents the population count, which may be slightly different than what is listed in Appendix G of the *FY 2024 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 \$.006598.

<u>Note</u>: 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 2024, the digital television fee category <u>will not</u> be assigned bill numbers.

<sup>&</sup>lt;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(c), 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 ID 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 LPTV stations were reclassified.<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, 2023, should pay the LPTV fee of \$245 for FY 2023.

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 may not have been concluded by October 1, 2023, some of these facilities may still be in the process of transitioning from analog to digital service. During this period of transition, licensees of low power, Class A, and TV translator 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 licenses, TV translator licenses, and FM translator and booster licenses granted on or before October 1, 2023, even if the license expired after October 1, 2023.

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

Type of License	Regulatory Fee	Payment Type Code	
Low Power Television Station, Class A, TV Translator	\$245	2467	
FM Translator/FM Booster	\$245	2468	

### FEE EXEMPTION CLAIMS

The Commission will no longer accept fee exemption claims at the website <a href="www.fccfees.com">www.fccfees.com</a>. 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 FY 2024 Regulatory Fees, General Exemptions at <a href="http://www.fcc.gov/regfees">http://www.fcc.gov/regfees</a>. Documentation must be received by the due date of <a href="September 27, 2024">September 27, 2024</a>. To claim a fee exemption, email your documentation to the Commission at <a href="ARINQUIRIES@fcc.gov">ARINQUIRIES@fcc.gov</a>.

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

# 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.<sup>4</sup> 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, 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 \$24,999.99.99.5 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 2024 regulatory fee collection in Fact Sheets, available at <a href="https://www.fcc.gov/regfees.">https://www.fcc.gov/regfees.</a> The *Treasury Financial Manual*, Volume I, Part 5, Chapter 7000, <a href="https://www.fcc.gov/regfees.">Credit and Debit Card Collection Transactions</a> 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.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;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 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*.

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 2024 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 2024 regulatory fees. Thus, if the sum total of all annual FY 2024 regulatory fees is \$1,000 or less, you are considered *de minimis* and do not have to pay FY 2024 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 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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