



Fee Schedule

ECS 12/2009

Revised 21 December 2009

Introduction

Under Part XVI of the Communications Act, 2009 (“Comms Act”), which came into force on 1 September, 2009 URCA has the power and duty to collect certain fees from licensees for itself and on behalf of other bodies.

URCA has reviewed and hereby revises the Fee Schedule published 1 December, 2009 (“the Fee Schedule”) to the extent that the Revised Fee Schedule:

- (i) Deletes the Transitional Application Fee table as it has no further statutory applicability to, and effect on, the electronic communications sector in The Bahamas and replaces it with an application/administrative fees.
- (ii) Explains the methodology and calculation for the annual URCA fee for new Licensees.

This document contains the level of **fees applicable from 1 September, 2009** as follows:

- Under Section 92 of the Comms Act, URCA has determined to levy the fees and charges set out in Tables 2 and 3 respectively. (See URCA’s Final Determination on Class Licences, Exemptions and Types of Fees ECS – 24/2009 found on URCA’s website at www.urcabahamas.bs).
- Under Section 91 of the Comms Act, licensees will be required to pay a Communications Licence fee to the Government but collected by URCA (these are set out in Table 4).
- There will be an obligation for licensees to pay other fees, such as under the Utilities Tribunal Act, 2009 (UAT Act) (these fees will be set out in Table 5 once duly determined in accordance with the UAT Act).
- Under Section 93 of the Comms Act, URCA will impose charges for radio spectrum (these are set out in Table 6).
- Under Section 76 of the Comms Act, URCA can, by regulation, require the payment of a fee for processing merger control applications and making an adjudication and, if applicable, an order, in the exercise of its merger control functions. A regulation on merger control fees will be published on the URCA website in the forthcoming weeks.

Under Section 92(2) of the Comms Act, fees levied by URCA must, amongst other things, be proportionate and be published in an appropriate and sufficiently detailed manner, so as to be readily accessible; and be set to cover URCA's annual budgeted costs of performing URCA's functions and exercising its powers under the Comms Act and the Utilities Regulation and Competition Authority Act, 2009 (URCA Act) and to recover any deficit from previous years.

The fees detailed in Tables 2 and 3 have been set to cover URCA's annual budgeted costs of performing its duties. URCA intends to publish as soon as possible towards the end of the current calendar year an Annual Plan including its proposed objectives and target activities for the following year and setting out URCA's budget based upon its activities for the year. This is a requirement under Section 41 of the URCA Act. The spectrum fees in Table 6 are the same fees that the legacy regulator, the Public Utilities Commission (PUC), charged for spectrum and need to be considered in conjunction with the Radio Spectrum Statement (ECS 13/2009) which was published on 1 September, 2009. These will be reviewed at the time when a new spectrum plan is published in accordance with Section 31 of the Comms Act.

In addition to the fees specified below, URCA may levy other fees and charges under Section 92(1)(a) of the Comms Act for particular services rendered by URCA in the performance of its functions and the exercise of its powers under the Comms Act. Licensees requesting specific services will be notified of the amount of these charges.

Table 1 – Application / Administrative Fees

Licence Type	Application/ Administrative Fees
Amateur Radio	\$10
Ships Radio (Under 1600 tons)	\$10
Ships Radio (Over 1600 tons)	\$100
Private Landbase	\$100
Broadcast License (Spectrum)	\$100
Wireless Local Loop	\$1000
Ship radio – Pleasure	\$10
VSAT	\$100
Spectrum Broadband	\$1000
Private Port	\$10
Fixed Wireless Service	\$1000
Telecommunications	\$5000
Aeronautical Fixed Ground	\$100
Public Paging	\$100
Public Trunking	\$100
Internet Service Provider	\$100
Private Paging	\$10
Private Trunking	\$10
Broadcast Radio	\$100
Broadcast Television	\$100
Pay TV/Cable TV	\$5000

Please refer to the Licensing Guidelines, available on the URCA website (www.urbahamas.bs) and the Communications Act 2009 for further information relating to application / administrative fees.

Table 2 - Operating Licence - URCA Fee

See the Final Determination on Class Licences, Exemptions and Types of Fees ECS – 24/2009 which is available at www.urcabahamas.bs

Licence Type	URCA Fee ¹ (per annum)
Individual Operating Licence	
Less than \$0.5m annual relevant turnover	\$3000
Greater than or equal to \$0.5m annual relevant turnover.	1.472% of annual relevant turnover ²
Registrable Class Operating Licence	
Less than \$0.5m annual relevant turnover	\$3000
Greater than or equal to \$0.5m annual relevant turnover.	1.472% of annual relevant turnover ³

Table 3 - URCA Publications

See the Final Determination on Class Licences, Exemptions and Types of Fees ECS – 24/2009 which is available at www.urcabahamas.bs

	Fee
Copy of URCA Publications	\$5

Table 4 - Communications Licence Fee

	Communications Licence Fee (per annum)
Every person required to pay an URCA fee pursuant to section 92(1)(c) of the Communications Act	3% of annual relevant turnover

¹ Payable under s 92(1)(c) of the Communications Act 2009

² The 1.472% of relevant turnover is not an annual fee but a sixteen (16) month fee. When pro-rated this will be equivalent to an annual URCA fee of 1.1%. The 16 months is a combination of the four (4) month period 1 September, 2009 to 31 December, 2010. The “annual relevant turnover” for **new licensees** will be calculated on 1.472% of projected revenue in year 1. For further explanation and clarification, see document ECS – 24/2009, particularly paragraphs 6.12 and 6.15 – 6.17.

³ Supra.

Table 5 - Utility Appeals Tribunal Fee

Every person required to pay an URCA fee pursuant to section 92(1)(c) of the Communications Act	UAT Fee (per annum)
Utility Appeals Tribunal Fee	TBD ⁴

Table 6 - Annual Spectrum Fee

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Spectrum Allocation	Spectrum Fee (per annum)
<u>Aeronautical</u>	
Aeronautical Fixed Ground Station Licence	\$300
Aircraft Radio Station Licence (Aircraft Based)	\$60
<u>Marine</u>	
Fixed - Private Port Station - Marina	\$150
Ship Radio Telephone Station - Pleasure Craft	\$30
Ship Radio Telephone Station - under 1600 tons	\$75
Ship Radio Telephone Station - over 1600 tons	\$150
<u>Land Mobile</u>	
Fixed:	
Private Land Base Station Licence (single frequency assignment) – per frequency allocation	\$250
Private Land Base Station Licence (duplex frequency assignment) – per frequency allocation	\$500
<u>Others</u>	
Private Trunking – per 5 frequency pair	\$390
Public Trunking - per 5 frequency pair	\$1300
Public Paging	\$1300
Private Paging	\$100
Broadcast Licence	\$500
Amateur Radio Station	\$25
Experimental Radio Station	\$100
VSAT systems with dishes less than 3.8 meters with one 64 kbs channel	\$500
VSAT systems with more than one 64 kbs channels – per channel	\$500
Earth Stations with dishes larger than 3 meters, with multiple channels	\$4500
<u>Fixed Stations Operating Above 1 GHz</u>	
Bandwidth Per Radio Link (Spectrum Usage) (Point-to-Point)	
Bandwidth Per Radio Link - Up to 50kHz (per radio link)	\$450

⁴ Schedule 3 of the UAT Act provides for URCA to bill and collect the Tribunal Fee on behalf of the Tribunal. The Registrar of the Tribunal, acting under the direction of the President of the Tribunal, must firstly publish and certify the anticipated relevant expenditure of the Tribunal before a Tribunal Fee can be determined and billed. URCA will accordingly bill licensees once the Tribunal Fee has been determined.

Bandwidth Per Radio Link - 50kHz to 3.5MHz (per radio link)	\$620
Bandwidth Per Radio Link - 3.5 MHz but less than 30 MHz (per radio link)	\$800
Bandwidth Per Radio Link - 30MHz or more (per radio link)	\$1200
Cellular Mobile	
800 MHz Cellular Band (per 30kHz channel)	\$300
1900 MHz Cellular Band (per 10MHz of bandwidth)	\$50,000
Broad Band Wireless Access	
1.7/2.1/2.3 GHz Bands (per 5MHz block)	\$3000
3.5GHz Band - (\$4000 for the first 1MHz, paired and \$2000 for each additional 1MHz, paired).	\$4000
Fixed Radiocommunications (Point-to-Multipoint)	
2.5 GHz Band (per 6MHz channel)	\$800