



Fee Schedule

ECS 08/2010

Revised: 24 March 2010

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 21 December, 2009 (“the Fee Schedule”) such that this Revised Fee Schedule now amends Table 6.

URCA has published its National Spectrum Plan, which is available for downloading from www.urcabahamas.bs that defines Premium Spectrum and Standard Spectrum bands.

The Minister with responsibility for the Electronic Communications Sector has the responsibility under the Communications Act, 2009 to decide the allocation method and to set the spectrum fees for frequencies in the Premium Spectrum Bands.

The spectrum fees for frequencies in the Premium Spectrum Bands have been listed in Table 6 and are the fees levied by URCA on behalf of the Government. These fees will remain in effect until URCA has been otherwise advised by the Minister.

URCA has the responsibility to allocate and set the fees for spectrum in the Standard Spectrum Bands, as listed in Table 6 and are levied by URCA on behalf of the Government. These Standard Spectrum fees may be revised by URCA after a consultation process.

A new fee schedule for Standard Spectrum will be subsequently published at the end of the second quarter 2010 to be levied 1 January, 2011.

URCA notes that it issues Individual and Class Spectrum Licences for the use of radio frequency spectrum throughout The Bahamas. Use of radio frequency spectrum is subject to any restrictions and limitations as listed in the Appendix of such licences. These restrictions and limitations may limit the use of the spectrum to a single territory or multiple territories. Where the Appendix does not provide for such restrictions and limitations the licensee will have national use of the spectrum. Use of spectrum will be priced accordingly in the Fee Schedule as published by URCA and the Fee Schedule may be amended and revised from time to time.

This document contains the level of **fees applicable from 1 January 2010** 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.urbahamas.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 has been published on the URCA website at www.urbahamas.bs.

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 has published its Annual Plan for 2010 that includes its objectives and target activities for the 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 National Spectrum Plan (ECS 06/2010) that was published 12 March 2010. 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.urcabahamas.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

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 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

Table 5 - Utility Appeals Tribunal Fee

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

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.

Table 6 - Annual Spectrum Fee

PREMIUM SPECTRUM

Spectrum Allocation	Spectrum Fee (per annum)
Broadband Wireless Access (Fixed Services)	
1.7/2.1 GHz Bands (5 MHz bandwidth blocks)	\$3,000
2.3 GHz Band (5 MHz bandwidth blocks)	\$3,000
Cellular Mobile Services	
850 MHz A & B Bands (per 30 kHz channels)	\$300
1900 MHz Band (10 MHz bandwidth)	\$50,000

STANDARD SPECTRUM

Spectrum Allocation	Spectrum Fee (per annum)
<u>Aeronautical</u>	
Aeronautical Fixed Ground Station Licence	\$300
<u>Marine</u>	
Ship Radio Telephone Station - Pleasure Craft	\$30
Ship Radio Telephone Station - under 1600 tons	\$75
Ship Radio Telephone Station - over 1600 tons	\$150
Land Base Station (Fixed Services)	
Private Land Base Station Licence (single frequency assignment) (per 25 kHz RF channel)	\$250
Private Land Base Station Licence (duplex frequency assignment) (per 25 kHz RF channel pair)	\$500

Others	
Private Trunking – per five 25 kHz RF channel pairs	\$390
Public Trunking - per five 25 kHz RF channel pairs	\$1300
Public Paging (25 kHz bandwidth)	\$1300
Private Paging (25 kHz bandwidth)	\$100
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
Radio & Television Broadcast Services	
FM Radio Broadcast Station (200 kHz bandwidth)	\$500
Studio to Transmitter Links (STL) (Below 1GHz, 100 kHz bandwidth)	\$250
TV Broadcast Station (6 MHz bandwidth)	\$3000
Fixed Stations Operating Above 1 GHz (Point-to-point)	
Bandwidth Per Radio Link - Up to 50kHz (per radio link)	\$450
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
Fixed Radiocommunications	
<u>Point-to-Multipoint</u>	
2.5 GHz Band Per each 6MHz bandwidth channel	\$800
3.5 GHz Band Per the first pair of 1 MHz bandwidth channels Per each additional pair of 1 MHz bandwidth channels	\$4,000 \$2,000