



Fee Schedule

January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014

ECS 21/2013

Revised: December 31, 2013

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 and amends the Fee Schedule published December 28, 2012 (“the Fee Schedule”) such that this Revised Fee Schedule now amends the level of annual URCA Fee as contained in Table 2.

The amendment to Table 2 of the Revised Fee Schedule is consequential to URCA’s budgeted costs for each financial year, charged to Licensees in accordance with the Comms Act, in order to fund URCA’s operations and planned activities over this period. With the expiration of each financial year, URCA is required under the Comms Act to publish an Annual Plan which will, *inter alia*, set out URCA’s strategy for the forthcoming financial year and its budget based on targeted activities. Therefore, the level of annual URCA Fee stipulated in Table 2 has been set to cover URCA’s annual budgeted costs of performing its functions and exercising its powers under the Comms Act specifically for the financial year January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014.

This document now contains the level of **fees applicable from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014**, 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, making

adjudications 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.urcabahamas.bs.

This Fee Schedule will be kept under review and will be revised from time to time.

1. The annual URCA Fee and other URCA Fees

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 annual URCA Fee funds the operations of URCA and is charged annually in respect of the forthcoming financial year. URCA's financial year extends from January 1 to December 31. URCA publishes its Annual Plan that includes its objectives and targeted activities for the financial year and sets out URCA's budget based upon its activities and budgeted costs for the year. This is a requirement under Section 41 of the URCA Act.

The annual URCA Fee is calculated based on a Licensee's relevant turnover. Existing Licensees will be invoiced at the end of each calendar year for the annual URCA Fee and Licensees must make full payment within thirty (30) days of being invoiced. Late payment will attract a statutory interest under Section 94 of the Comms Act at a daily rate of four per centum (4%) per annum over the prime lending rate as published by the Central Bank of The Bahamas.

URCA may exercise its discretion to permit payment arrangements of the annual URCA Fee by Licensees. However, payments by a Licensee made outside the required 30 day period for full payment, as invoiced by URCA, will attract interest at the level stated above. URCA encourages all Licensees to make full payment of the annual URCA Fee as prescribed in the URCA invoice. URCA emphasizes that it must bill and collect the annual URCA Fee in a manner that ensures it will have the necessary funding to be able to effectively and efficiently achieve its projected targets and activities for the year.

The annual URCA Fee becomes payable before a Licensee commences activities within a regulated sector. This is particularly applicable to a new Licensee that has been issued an Individual Operating Licence or a Class Operating Licence Requiring Registration by URCA under the Comms Act. Where URCA issues a new Comms Act licence, the Licensee will be invoiced for the annual URCA Fee in accordance with this Fee Schedule and will be required to pay the fee within the period as prescribed in the invoice.

URCA may also levy other URCA fees and charges under Section 92(1)(a) and (b) 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. The URCA fees are payable each time an application is submitted under the Comms Act or for the supply or making of copies of documents. All applicants are required to pay the application fee under this Fee Schedule upon submission of an application form in order for URCA to commence processing of the application. Where an applicant fails to pay the requisite application fee, any statutory application processing time under the Comms Act will not start until such payment has been made.

Where an applicant intends to provide multiple services under a licence, the application fee will be charged based on the highest fee amount of the services being applied for. For example, URCA will only charge a single application fee of \$5,000 where the applicant has submitted an application for a licence to provide Pay Television, Fixed Voice and Internet services.

The fees detailed in Tables 1 and 3 below are set to cover the URCA application processing and administrative costs, and the costs for the supply or making copies of URCA documents, respectively.

The fees detailed in Table 2 below are the annual URCA Fees for the financial year January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014 and have been set to cover URCA’s annual budgeted costs for performing its functions under the Comms Act for this period.

Table 1 – Application / Administrative Fees

Type of electronic communications service for which application form is submitted	Application/ Administrative Fees
Amateur Radio (Local/Reciprocal)	\$10
Broadband Wireless	\$100
Broadcasting (AM/FM Radio)	\$100
Broadcasting (Studio to transmitter link[STL])	
Broadcasting (Television)	\$100
Backhaul	\$100
Cellular/Mobile Networks	\$5000
Fixed Voice	\$5000
Fixed Wireless Access	\$1000
Fixed Wireless Service	\$1000
Internet Service Provider	\$100
Numbering resources	\$100
Pay Television (Pay TV)/Cable TV	\$5000
Prepaid Calling Card Services (Own Branding)	\$1000
Private Landbase (simplex/duplex/narrow band)	\$100

transmission)	
Private Paging	\$10
Private Trunking	\$10
Public Fixed Network (Voice/Data/Video)	\$5000
Public Paging	\$100
Public Trunking	\$100
Request for additional/reduction of spectrum	\$100
Resale services (Voice/Data)	\$1000
Ship Radiocommunications (vessels with GMDSS)	\$10
Studio Transmitter Link (STL)	\$100
Submarine Cable Networks	\$1000
Type Approval	\$100
Wi-Fi Networks (Public)	\$1000
Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT)	\$100
Wireless Local Loop	\$1000

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 – URCA Annual Fee – Operating Licence

See the Final Determination on Class Licences, Exemptions and Types of Fees ECS – 24/2009 which is available at www.urbahamas.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.	1.368% of annual relevant turnover
Class Operating Licence Requiring Registration	
Less than \$0.5m annual relevant turnover	\$3000
Greater than or equal to \$0.5m annual relevant turnover.	1.368% of annual relevant turnover

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

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

2. The Communications Licence Fees

A Licensee required to pay the URCA Annual Fee must also pay the Communications Licence Fee (“Comms Fee”). This fee becomes payable before a Licensee commences its licensed activities under the Comms Act. The Comms Fee is a statutory fee set in Schedule 3 of the Comms Act at 3% of the Licensee’s relevant turnover. This amount may only be changed by an amendment to the Comms Act.

In each subsequent year, the Comms Fee must be paid to URCA by a Licensee on or before April 30 of each year. Under the Comms Act, URCA acts on behalf of the Government to administer the billing and collection of the Comms Fee and must account to the Treasury of The Bahamas on or before June 30 of each year for all Comms Fees it collects. URCA will invoice a Licensee for the Comms Fee at the end of each calendar year. The Licensee is encouraged to pay the Comms fee as soon as possible after receiving an invoice from URCA, but must make full payment no later than April 30 of each year.

Late payment of the Comms Fee will attract statutory interest under Section 94 of the Comms Act daily at the lower of a rate of four per centum (4%) over the prime lending rate as published by the Central Bank of The Bahamas; and any maximum applicable rate specified in the Rate of Interest Act.

As the Comms Fee is a “pass through” fee payable to the Government of The Bahamas and only billed and collected by URCA, **URCA has no discretion to permit payment arrangements of this fee** by a Licensee.

The fee detailed in Table 4 below is the Comms Fee for which URCA will invoice a Licensee annually until the prescribed level of fee has been changed by an amendment to the Comms Act.

Table 4 - Communications Licence Fee

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

3. The Tribunal Fee

Licensees in a regulated sector will be required to pay the Tribunal Fee. Once determined by the Registrar of the Tribunal, URCA will publish in its Fee Schedule the level of Tribunal Fee payable by a Licensee. As soon as reasonably practicable and in any event within three (3) months after the publication of the Registrar’s estimate in accordance with the Utilities Appeal Tribunal Act, 2009, URCA will invoice and collect the Tribunal Fee from Licensees in a regulated sector at the end of each calendar year.

Table 5 - Tribunal Fee

Every person required to pay an URCA fee pursuant to section 92(1)(c) of the Communications Act	UAT Fee (per annum)
Utilities Appeal Tribunal Fee	TBD ²

4. Spectrum Fee

All Licensees that have been allocated or uses radio spectrum under a spectrum licence issued by URCA are required to pay the Spectrum Fee. The Spectrum Fee must be paid to URCA on behalf of the Government before the Licensee commences activities under its licence and in each subsequent year. URCA acts on behalf of the Government to administer the billing and collection of the Spectrum Fee and will invoice Licensees for the Spectrum Fee in accordance with this Fee Schedule, as revised from time to time, at the end of each calendar year.

Under the Comms Act, the Minister with responsibility for the Electronic Communications Sector (the Minister) may set the level of spectrum fees in the Premium Spectrum bands and URCA will impose charges for spectrum in the Standard Spectrum bands. The level of spectrum fees has been stipulated in Table 6 below. With the exception of pricing for newly opened spectrum bands, the level of spectrum fees is currently the same as established by the legacy regulator, the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). The spectrum fees should be considered in conjunction with the National Spectrum Plan (ECS 06/2010) as published by URCA on March 12, 2010 and the Policy for New Spectrum Bands (ECS 09/2012) as published March 23, 2012.

As the Spectrum Fee is also a “pass through” fee payable to the Government of The Bahamas and only billed and collected by URCA, **URCA has no discretion to permit payment arrangements of this fee** by a Licensee.

² 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.

The fees detailed in Table 6 below are the Spectrum Fees that are, with the exception of spectrum listed for Cellular Mobile Services, calculated and charged on a “per island” basis until revised by URCA after a public consultation process. The Minister has determined the spectrum listed for Cellular Mobile Services to be Premium Spectrum and has set the level of such Spectrum Fee to be charged on a national basis.

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	\$300
<u>Marine</u>	
Ship Radio Telephone Station – fitted with GMDSS equipment	\$150
<u>Land Base Station (Fixed Services)</u>	
Private Land Base Station (single frequency assignment) (per 25 kHz RF channel)	\$250
Private Land Base Station (duplex frequency assignment)	

(per 25 kHz RF channel pair)	\$500
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Other services	
Amateur Radio Station (Local/Reciprocal)	\$25
Earth Stations with dishes larger than 3 meters, with multiple channels	\$4500
Experimental Radio Station	\$100
Private Paging (25 kHz bandwidth)	\$100
Private Trunking – per five 25 KHz RF channel pairs	\$390
Public Paging (25 kHz bandwidth)	\$1300
Public Trunking – per five 25 KHz RF channel pairs	\$1300
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
Broadcast Services (AM/FM/Television)	
FM Radio Broadcast (200 kHz bandwidth)	\$500
Studio to Transmitter Links (STL) (Below 1GHz, 100 kHz bandwidth)	\$250
TV Broadcast Station (6 MHz bandwidth)	\$3000
Fixed Wireless 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 6 MHz 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

700 MHz Spectrum Band	
B, B', G and G'	\$8,000 per MHz
All other blocks	\$6,000 per MHz

11 GHz Spectrum Band	
11 GHz	\$20 per MHz

12 GHz Spectrum Band	
12 GHz	\$20 per MHz

42 GHz Spectrum Band	
42 GHz	\$10 per MHz