



# **Fee Schedule**

**1 January to 31 December 2025**

**URCA 02/2025**

**Issued: 25 July 2025**

## **Disclaimer**

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## Introduction

- 1.1 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 charge and collect fees from licensees in the Electronic Communications Sector (ECS) on behalf of the Government of The Bahamas and to cover URCA’s annual budgeted costs of performing URCA’s functions and exercising its powers under the Comms Act.
- 1.2 Under Section 39 of the Electricity Act, 2024 (“EA”), which came into force on 31 May 2024, URCA has the power and duty to charge and collect fees from licensees in the Electricity Sector (ES) in The Bahamas to, inter alia, cover URCA’s annual budgeted costs of performing URCA’s functions and exercising its powers under the EA.
- 1.3 Under Section 16 of the Natural Gas Act, 2024 (“NGA”), which came into force on 31 May 2024, URCA has the power and duty to charge and collect fees from licensees in the Natural Gas Sector (“NGS”) in The Bahamas to, inter alia, cover URCA’s annual budgeted costs of performing URCA’s functions and exercising its powers under the NGA.
- 1.4 Under Schedule 3 of the Utilities Tribunal Act, 2009 (UAT Act), all Licensees in a regulated sector are 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 Licensees. 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 all Licensees in a regulated sector. The Tribunal Fee will be set out in Table 12 of a Revised Fee Schedule published by URCA.
- 1.5 This document sets out the **fees applicable from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025** in the following categories:

### Communications Act, 2009 (“Comms Act”)

- i. Under Section 92 of the Comms Act, URCA has determined to levy the fees and charges set out in Tables 1 and 2, respectively. (See URCA’s Final Determination on Class Licences, Exemptions and Types of Fees ECS – 24/2009)<sup>1</sup>;
- ii. Under section 92(1)(b) of the Comms Act, URCA may levy charges for the supply or making copies of documents. The fee to be payable for the supply or making copies of documents is set out in Table 10;
- iii. 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

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.urbahamas.bs/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/ECS-24-2009-Final-Determination-Class-Licences-Exemptions-and-Types-of-Fees-1.pdf>

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](http://www.urbahamas.bs);

- iv. Under Section 93 of the Comms Act, URCA will impose charges for radio spectrum. The Spectrum Fees are set out in Tables 13A, 13B and 13C; and
- v. Under Section 91 of the Comms Act, licensees in the ECS are required to pay a Communications Licence fee to the Government which is billed and collected by URCA. The Communications Licence fee is set out in Table 11.

#### Electricity Act, 2024 (“EA”)

- vi. Under Section 39 of the EA, URCA has determined to levy the fees and charges set out in Tables 4 and 5, respectively. (See URCA’s Statement of Results and Final Decision on Fees for the Electricity Sector (ES 03/2017)<sup>2</sup>;
- vii. Under Section 39(2)(c) of the EA, URCA may levy charges for the supply or making copies of documents. The fee to be payable for the supply or making copies of documents is set out in Table 10; and
- viii. Under Section 39(2)(e) of the EA URCA may impose fees or charges upon ES licensees for the processing of merger applications under section 42 and related adjudications and orders under section 50 of the EA. These fees are set out in Table 6.

#### Natural Gas Act 2024 (“NGA”)

- ix. Under Section 16 of the NGA, URCA has determined to levy the fees and charges set out in Tables 7 and 8, respectively. (See URCA’s Statement of Results and Final Decision on Fees for the Natural Gas Sector;
- x. Under Section 16(2)(c) of the NGA, URCA may levy charges for the supply or making copies of documents. The fee to be payable for the supply or making copies of documents is set out in Table 10; and
- xi. Under Section 16(2)(e) of the NGA URCA may impose fees or charges upon NGA licensees for the processing of merger applications under Part IV and related adjudications and orders under the NGA. These fees are set out in Table 9.

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

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.urbahamas.bs/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/ES-012017-Final-Decision-on-Fees-in-the-Electricity-Sector.pdf>

## **2. The Annual URCA Fee and other URCA Fees**

- 2.1 Under Section 92(2) of the Comms Act, Section 39(3) of the EA and Section 16(3) of the NGA, 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 URCA Act, the Comms Act, the EA and the NGA, and to recover any deficit from previous years.
- 2.2 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 of each year. 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. The requirement to publish the URCA Annual Plan is in accordance with Section 41 of the URCA Act.
- 2.3 The annual URCA Fee is calculated based on a Licensee's relevant turnover. Existing Licensees will be invoiced for the annual URCA Fee and Licensees must make full payment within thirty (30) calendar days of being invoiced. Late payment of the URCA Fee will attract statutory interest under Section 94 of the Comms Act, Section 39(5) of the EA, and Section 16(5) of the NGA, respectively, on a daily basis at the lower of a rate of four per centum (4%) per annum 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.
- 2.4 URCA may exercise its discretion to permit payment arrangements by Licensees in respect of the annual URCA Fee. However, payments by a Licensee made outside the required thirty (30) calendar 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 has the necessary funding to be able to effectively and efficiently achieve its projected targets and activities for the year and does not discriminate between similarly situated Licensees.
- 2.5 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, a Public Electricity Supplier Licence under the EA or a Terminal Operator Licence under the NGA. Where URCA issues a new Licence, the Licensee will be invoiced for the annual URCA Fee in accordance with this Fee Schedule and will be required to pay this fee within the period as prescribed in the invoice.
- 2.6 URCA may also levy other URCA fees and charges under Sections 92(1)(a) and (b) of the

Comms Act, Sections 39(2)(b), (c), (e) and (f) of the EA, and Section 16 (2)(b), (c), (e) and (f) of the NGA for particular services rendered by URCA in the performance of its functions and the exercise of its powers. The URCA fees are payable each time an application is submitted or for the supply or making of copies of documents. All applicants are required to pay the applicable application fee 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 stipulated by the relevant Act will not start until such payment has been made.

- 2.7 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 or Mobile Voice and Internet Services.
- 2.8 The fees detailed in Tables 1 below are set to cover URCA's licence application and licence renewal application processing and administrative costs, respectively. The costs for the supply or making copies of URCA documents are set out in Table 10.<sup>3</sup>
- 2.9 **The fees detailed in Tables 2, 5 and 8 below are the annual URCA Fees for the financial year 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025 applicable to licensees in the ECS, ES and NGS, respectively**, and have been set to cover URCA's annual budgeted costs for performing its functions under the URCA Act, the Comms Act (applicable to the ECS), the EA (applicable to the ES) and the NGA (applicable to the NGS) for this period, as set out in the Draft URCA Annual Plan 2024 published on 20 December 2024.
- 2.10 The assessed URCA fee for the 2025 Financial Year for the ECS has increased by 18% because of increased consumer education and public education initiatives such as surveys, brand audits, and community outreach efforts. Additionally, emphasis has been placed on the completion of regulatory projects which has led to an increase in professional service costs. The URCA fee for the ES has decreased 27% primarily due to NGS operations being subsumed within the ES which has resulted in a proportional share of the sector costs being allocated to the NGS. The fee for the NGS will be determined at an appropriate time.

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<sup>3</sup> Please refer to the sector specific Licensing Guidelines, available on the URCA website ([www.urbahamas.bs](http://www.urbahamas.bs)), the Communications Act, 2009, the Electricity Act, 2024 and the Natural Gas Act, 2024 for further information relating to application / administrative fees.

**Table 1 – Licence Application and Licence Renewal Application Fees -ECS<sup>4</sup>**

Type of electronic communications service for which licence application and licence renewal 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])	\$100
Broadcasting (Television)	\$100
Backhaul	\$100
Cellular/Mobile Networks	\$5,000
Communications Licence Fee Reduction	\$1000
Earth Station In Motion (ESIM) <sup>5</sup>	\$100
Fixed Voice	\$5,000
Fixed Wireless Access	\$1,000
Fixed Wireless Service	\$1,000
Internet Service Provider	\$100
Numbering resources	\$100
Pay Television (Pay TV)/Cable TV	\$5,000
Prepaid Calling Card Services (Own Branding)	\$1,000
Private Landbase (simplex/duplex/narrow band transmission)	\$100
Private Paging	\$10
Private Trunking	\$10
Public Fixed Network (Voice/Data/Video)	\$5,000
Public Paging	\$100

<sup>4</sup> Please refer to the respective sectors' Licensing Guidelines available on the URCA website ([www.urcabahamas.bs](http://www.urcabahamas.bs)), the Communications Act 2009 and Electricity Act 2024, for further information relating to application/administrative fees.

<sup>5</sup> URCA recognizes that ESIM is also referred to as Earth Station On Mobile Platform (ESOMP).

Type of electronic communications service for which licence application and licence renewal application form is submitted	Application/_ Administrative Fees
Public Trunking	\$100
Request for additional/reduction of spectrum	\$100
Resale services (Voice/Data)	\$1,000
Satellite Broadband Internet User Terminals	\$100
Ship Radiocommunications (vessels with GMDSS)	\$10
Studio Transmitter Link (STL)	\$100
Submarine Cable Networks	\$1,000
Type Approval	\$100
Wi-Fi Networks (Public)	\$1,000
Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT)	\$100
Wireless Local Loop	\$1,000

**Table 2 – Annual URCA Fee – Operating Licence-ECS<sup>6</sup>**

Licence Type	URCA Fee <sup>7</sup> (per annum)
<b>Individual Operating Licence</b>	
Less than \$0.5m annual relevant turnover	\$3,000
Greater than or equal to \$0.5m annual relevant turnover.	1.448% of annual relevant turnover
<b>Class Operating Licence Requiring Registration</b>	
Less than \$0.5m annual relevant turnover	\$3,000
Greater than or equal to \$0.5m annual relevant turnover.	1.448% of annual relevant turnover

<sup>6</sup> Please refer to URCA's Licensing Guidelines, available on the URCA website ([www.urcabahamas.bs](http://www.urcabahamas.bs)) for further information relating to Types of Operating Licences and the associated fees.

<sup>7</sup> Payable under s.92(1)(c) of the Communications Act, 2009.

**Table 3 – Fees for Review of Change in Control – ECS**

Combined relevant turnover of acquiring parties and target Licensee	Fee <sup>8</sup>
Basic notification	TBD
Simplified notification	TBD
Less than or equal to \$5 million	\$5,000
Greater than \$5 million and less than or equal to \$10 million	\$10,000
Greater than \$10 million and less than or equal to \$50 million	\$15,000
Greater than \$50 million and less than or equal to \$100 million	\$25,000
Greater than \$100 million	\$35,000

**Table 4– Licence Application and Licence Renewal Application Fees -ES<sup>9</sup>**

Type of electricity service for which the licence application and licence renewal application form is submitted	Application fee <sup>10</sup>
Public Electricity Supplier Licence (PESL)	\$5,000
Authorised Public Electricity Supplier Licence (APESL)	\$5,000
Transmission and Distribution Licence (TDL)	\$3,500
Subsidiary Licence	\$3,500
Large Self-Generation Licence (more than 25kW)	\$3,000
System Operator Licence	\$2,500
Independent Power Producer Licence (more than 25kW)	\$2,000
Generation Licence	\$2,000
Temporary Generation Licence	\$1,000
Renewable Energy Self-Generation Programme (RESG)	\$250

<sup>8</sup> For further information see URCA's Merger Control – Regulation on Fees ECS COMP. 3 18 September 2009, available on the URCA website [www.urbahamas.bs](http://www.urbahamas.bs) under the Competition tab.

<sup>9</sup><http://www.urbahamas.bs/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/ES-012017-Final-Decision-on-Fees-in-the-Electricity-Sector.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> Payable under s.39(2)(b) of the Electricity Act 2024.

Type of electricity service for which the licence application and licence renewal application form is submitted	Application fee <sup>10</sup>
Small-Scale Renewable Generation Programme (SSRG)	\$150

**Table 5 – Annual URCA Fee – Electricity Sector Licences**

Licence Type	URCA Fee <sup>11</sup> (per annum)
Public Electricity Supplier Licence (PESL)	.5018% of annual relevant turnover
Authorised Public Electricity Supplier Licence (APESL)	.5018% of annual relevant turnover
Above Licensees with less than \$0.5m annual relevant turnover	\$3,000

Licence Type	URCA Fee <sup>12</sup> (per annum)
Independent Power Producer Licence (IPPL)	.5018% of annual relevant turnover
Less than \$0.5m annual relevant turnover – (IPPL)	\$3,000
Generation Licence	\$3,000

Licence Type	URCA Fee <sup>13</sup> (per annum)
Transmission and Distribution Licence (TDL)	.5018% of annual relevant turnover

<sup>11</sup> Payable under s.39(2)(d) of the Electricity Act, 2024.

<sup>12</sup> Payable under s.39(2)(d) of the Electricity Act, 2024.

<sup>13</sup> Payable under s.39(2)(d) of the Electricity Act, 2024.

Licence Type	URCA Fee <sup>13</sup> (per annum)
Less than \$0.5m annual relevant turnover – (TDL)	\$3,000

Licence Type	URCA Fee <sup>14</sup> (per annum)
System Operator Licence (SOL)	.5018% of annual relevant turnover
Less than \$0.5m annual relevant turnover – (SOL)	\$3,000

**Table 6 – Fees for Review of Change in Control - ES**

Combined relevant turnover of acquiring parties and target Licensee	Fee <sup>15</sup>
Less than or equal to \$5 million	\$5,000
Greater than \$5 million and less than or equal to \$10 million	\$10,000
Greater than \$10 million and less than or equal to \$50 million	\$15,000
Greater than \$50 million and less than or equal to \$100 million	\$25,000
Greater than \$100 million	\$35,000

**Table 7 – Licence Application and Licence Renewal Application Fees – NGS**

Type of Natural Gas service for which application form is submitted	Application fee <sup>16</sup>
Gas Importer Licence	\$2,500
Gas Transporter Licence	\$2,500
Gas Shipper Licence	\$2,500
Gas Retailer Licence	\$2,500

<sup>14</sup> Payable under s.39(2)(d) of the Electricity Act, 2024.

<sup>15</sup> Charges applied in accordance with s.39(2)(e) of the Electricity Act, 2024.

<sup>16</sup> Payable under s.16(2)(b) of the Natural Gas, 2024.

Type of Natural Gas service for which application form is submitted	Application fee <sup>16</sup>
Gas Terminal Operator	\$2,500
Gas Service Worker (Class A)	\$350
Gas Service Worker (Class B)	\$250
Gas Transfer Operation	\$200
Registration as Gas Transfer Service Provider	\$200
Review of Gas Operating Plan	\$500
Gas Transfer Operation Inspection	\$1,000
Terminal Construction Licence	\$2,500
Pipeline Construction Licence	\$2,500

**Table 8 – Annual Licence and Registration Fees – Natural Gas Sector Licences**

Licence Type	Licence Fee <sup>17</sup> (per annum)
Gas Service Worker (Class A)	\$500
Gas Service Worker (Class B)	\$400
Gas Transfer Service Provider Registration	\$3,000
Gas Transfer Operation Permit	\$3,000

<sup>17</sup> Payable under s16(2)(d) of the Natural Act, 2024.

**Table 9 – URCA Licence Fee – Natural Gas Sector Licences**

Licence Type	URCA Fee <sup>18</sup>
Gas Transporter Licence (GTL)	\$600,000
Gas Shipper Licence (GSL)	TBD
Terminal Operator Licence (TOL)	\$600,000
Gas Retailer Licence (GRL)	TBD
Gas Importer Licence (GIL)	\$600,000
Terminal Construction Licence (TCL)	\$10,000 <sup>19</sup>
Pipeline Construction Licence (PCL)	\$10,000

**Table 10 – Fees for Review of Change in Control - NGS**

Combined relevant turnover of acquiring parties and target Licensee	Fee <sup>20</sup>
Less than or equal to \$5 million	\$5,000
Greater than \$5 million and less than or equal to \$10 million	\$10,000
Greater than \$10 million and less than or equal to \$50 million	\$15,000

<sup>18</sup> Payable under s16(2)(a) of the Natural Act, 2024. Licensees in the Natural Gas Sector listed in Table 9 will be charged a flat URCA fee for the period from 1 October 2024 to 31 December 2025 for services rendered by URCA directly attributable to the NGS during this period. Save for the URCA fee charged for the Terminal Construction Licence and the Pipeline Construction Licence, URCA anticipates reviewing before 31 December 2025 the level of all NGS fees in Table 9 and may introduce fee bands, where the fee will be based on factors such as the volume of natural gas handled by the respective licensees, or other relevant considerations.

<sup>19</sup> The URCA fee for the Terminal Construction Licence and the Pipeline Construction Licence will be a “one off” fee charged by URCA for each NGS Terminal or Pipeline construction licence.

<sup>20</sup> Charges applied in accordance with section 16(2)(e) of the Electricity Act, 2024.

Combined relevant turnover of acquiring parties and target Licensee	Fee <sup>20</sup>
Greater than \$50 million and less than or equal to \$100 million	\$25,000
Greater than \$100 million	\$35,000

**Table 11 - URCA Publications**

Service	Fee <sup>21</sup>
Copy of URCA Publications	\$5

### 3. Communications Licence Fee

- 3.1 A Comms Act Licensee who is 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 imposed under Schedule 8 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.
- 3.2 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 shall act 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. 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.
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 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 enter payment arrangements for this fee** with a Licensee unless on the express written authorization from the Minister of Finance or a duly authorized officer acting on behalf of the said Minister (e.g. the Financial Secretary).
- 3.5 The fee detailed in Table 9 below is the Comms Fee for which URCA will invoice a Licensee

<sup>21</sup> Payable under s92(1)(d) of the Communications Act, 2009, s39(2)(c) of the Electricity Act, 2024 and s16(2)(c) of the Natural Gas Act, 2024.

annually until the prescribed level of the fee has been changed by an amendment to the Comms Act.

**Table 12 - Communications Licence Fee**

ECS Licensees required to pay an URCA fee pursuant to Section 92(1)(c) of the Comms Act.	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

#### 4. The Tribunal Fee

4.1 Licensees in a regulated sector will be required to pay the Tribunal Fee. Once the Tribunal has determined its annual budget, the Registrar is required by Schedule 3 of the UAT Act, to publish and certify as reasonable its anticipated relevant expenditure. Pursuant to or 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 UAT Act, URCA is required to invoice and collect the Tribunal Fee from Licensees or regulated persons in the regulated sectors. URCA has no authority to determine the Tribunal fee because the determination of the UAT’s budget falls under the authority of the Utility Appeals Tribunal.

4.2 Upon publication of the UAT’s Budget, URCA will apportion the budget between the ECS, the NGS and the ES, using the same proportions applied by URCA in apportioning its own budget, and to that end will bill and collect from ECS and ES licensees the sum of published budget. The fees will be charged to Licensees liable to pay the URCA Annual Fee, using the same methodology used to devise the URCA Annual Fee that is, based on the relevant turnover of those Licensees

**Table 13 - Tribunal Fee<sup>22</sup>**

ECS Licensees required to pay an URCA fee pursuant to Section 92(1)(c) of the Comms Act.	Tribunal Fee (per annum)

<sup>22</sup> Payable in accordance with Schedule 3 Paragraph (5) of the UAT Act, 2009.

Greater than or equal to \$0.5m annual relevant turnover	
Individual Operating Licence	TBD
Class Operating Licence Requiring Registration	TBD
Above Licensees with less than \$0.5m annual relevant turnover	TBD
<b>ES Licensees required to pay an URCA fee pursuant to Section 39(2)(d) of the EA</b>	<b>Tribunal Fee (per annum)</b>
Greater than or equal to \$0.5m annual relevant turnover	
Public Electricity Supplier Licence	TBD
Authorised Public Electricity Supplier Licence	TBD
Independent Power Producer Licence	TBD
Transmission and Distribution Licence	TBD
Above Licensees with less than \$0.5m annual relevant turnover	TBD
<b>NGS Licensees required to pay an URCA fee pursuant to Section 16(2)(d) of the NGA</b>	<b>Tribunal Fee (per annum)</b>
Greater than or equal to \$0.5m annual relevant turnover	TBD
Gas Importer Licence	TBD
Gas Transporter Licence	TBD
Gas Shipper Licence	TBD
Terminal Operator Licence	TBD
Gas Retailer Licence	TBD
Above Licensees with less than \$0.5m annual relevant turnover	TBD

## 5. Spectrum Fee

- 5.1 All Licensees that have been allocated or use 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.

- 5.2 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.
- 5.3 URCA will notify the Minister in writing of all applications for Premium Spectrum and will submit its recommendation for any proposed premium spectrum fees and/or a formula for calculating the same. URCA's recommendation will be made pursuant to URCA's "Review of Radio Frequency Spectrum Pricing Statement of Results and Final Decision – ECS 01/2016"<sup>23</sup>. Notwithstanding URCA's recommendation, the Minister has sole discretion in determining Premium Spectrum fees and the pricing for premium spectrum, as set out in the ECS 01/2016 document, are subject to ministerial decision and may be revised or amended by the Minister. The timeline for the Minister's decision is beyond URCA's control.
- 5.4 The level of standard spectrum fees is set out in Tables 13A and 13B below. The fees detailed are with the exception of spectrum listed for Cellular Mobile Services, calculated and charged on a "per island" basis until revised by URCA. 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. As the Spectrum 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. Any previously existing arrangements between a licensee and the Government of The Bahamas for spectrum fees (whether by way of waiver, reduction or payment plan) must be supported by a direction to URCA in writing from the current Minister. Any arrangements that are not supported by such Ministerial direction will not be applied to Spectrum Fees in the current period.
- 5.5 Technological advances have seen the emergence of Earth Stations in Motion (ESIM) around the world. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is in the process of developing a unified approach to these technologies to be employed by all treaty signatories. However, to facilitate the increasing applications that are being submitted to URCA for spectrum Licences to provide ESIM services, URCA has implemented a provisional Spectrum fee structure found at Table 13B, which is subject to change. Where URCA revises the spectrum fee for ESIM services, such revised spectrum fee will take

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<sup>23</sup><https://www.urbahamas.bs/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/ECS-01-2016-REVIEW-OF-RADIO-FREQUENCY-SPECTRUM-PRICING.pdf>. The pricing for premium spectrum contained in ECS 01/2016 is only intended to show the level of fees for premium spectrum that URCA will recommend to the Minister and URCA's methodology for calculating such fees.

effect in the subsequent year.

- 5.6 In order to assist Licensees in estimating their Spectrum Fee, URCA has included Table 14, a table of the bandwidth related spectrum fees, applied to common licensed allocations. The amounts indicated in Table 14 are indicative only, for ease of reference, and shall be superseded by the actual calculation of the relevant fee based on the formulae set out in Table 13B upon processing of an application for spectrum.

**Table 14-A – Annual Standard Spectrum Fees**

**Station fees**<sup>24</sup>

Service	Description	Spectrum fee (per annum)
Aeronautical	Fixed Ground Station	\$300
Amateur	Radio Station	\$25
Experimental	Radio Station	\$100
Maritime	Ship Radio Station equipped with GMDSS	\$150
Satellite	Satellite terminals with dish size equal to or greater than 3 metres	\$4,500
	Satellite terminals with dish size less than 3 metres	\$500
Broadcast TV	Public Service TV station	\$3,000

**Table 14-B – Annual Standard Spectrum Fees**

**Earth Stations in Motion (ESIM)**

Platform/Craft	Description	Spectrum fee (per annum)
Private Aircraft and Private Vessel	Single aircraft or vessel	\$200

<sup>24</sup> Notes: For aeronautical, amateur, experimental, maritime and broadcast TV services, fees are charged per station. For satellite services, excluding ESIMs, fees are charged per earth station.

Platform/Craft	Description	Spectrum fee (per annum)
Commercial airlines and shipping companies	Fleet less than or equal to 5 aircrafts or vessels	\$500
Commercial airlines and shipping companies	Fleet size greater than 5 and less than or equal to 16 aircrafts or vessels	\$3,000
Commercial airlines and shipping companies	fleet size greater than 16 and less than or equal to 50 aircrafts or vessels	\$8,500
Commercial airlines and shipping companies	fleet size greater than 50 aircrafts or vessels	\$25,500

**Table 14-C – Annual Standard Spectrum Fees**

**Satellite Broadband Internet User Terminals**

Island	Description of Tiers*	Fee Per User Terminal (per annum)
New Providence	Tier 1: 5000 or fewer User Terminals	\$500
	Tier 2: Between 5001 – 10000 User Terminals	\$333
	Tier 3: More than 10000 User Terminals	\$167
Grand Bahama	Tier1: 1000 or fewer User Terminals	\$100
	Tier 2: Between 1001 – 2000 User Terminals	\$67
	Tier 3: More than 10000 User Terminals	\$33
All Other Islands	Tier 1: 1333 or fewer User Terminals	\$50
	Tier 2: Between 1334 – 2666 User Terminals	\$33
	Tier 3: More than 2666 User Terminals	\$17

\* A Licensee must satisfy the user terminal and fee requirements in Tier 1 before being eligible for Tier 2 fees and must concurrently satisfy the user terminal and fee requirements in both Tier 1 and Tier 2 being eligible for Tier 3 fees.

**Table 15- Bandwidth-related fees (annual fee in \$/MHz)**

## Annual Fee Per MHz

Frequency Range	All services (Cellular Mobile Prohibited)		
	National/New Providence	Grand Bahama	Any other island
Up to 960 MHz	8,500	1,700	850
960 - 2200 MHz	4,250	850	425
2200 – 6700 MHz	425	85	42.5
6700 – 30,000 MHz	85	17	8.5
Above 30,000 MHz <sup>25</sup>	42.5	8.5	4.25

<sup>25</sup> Notes: The values in this table are calculated using the bandwidth-related fee formula  $Fee = C * FBF * IF * TF * BW$ , based on a Constant (C) of 8500, Island Factor (IF) of 1 for National/New Providence, 0.2 for Grand Bahama and 0.1 any other island, Frequency Band factor of 1 for frequencies up to 960 MHz, 0.5 for frequencies between 960-2200 MHz, 0.05 for frequencies between 2200-6700 MHz, 0.01 for frequencies between 6700- 30000 MHz, 0.005 for frequencies above 30,000 MHz, Time Factor (TF) of 1 for 1 year and Bandwidth (BW) of 1 MHz. There is a minimum fee of \$100.

Methodology to estimate the spectrum fee:

- i. Look up the corresponding fee/MHz value based on the relevant Frequency Band Factor (row) and Island Factor (column) for the assigned spectrum.
- ii. Multiply this value by the Bandwidth assigned in MHz (e.g. if 2x25 kHz is assigned then the Bandwidth is 0.05MHz ) and the Time Factor (if Licence period is 1 calendar year, then  $TF = 1$ ; if Licence period is less than 1 calendar year, the  $TF$  will be scaled pro-rata to Licence duration, rounded up to the nearest month, i.e. if the Licence period is 10 weeks, the fee will be calculated on the basis of 3 months, i.e.  $TF = 0.25$ )

## Applied bandwidth-related fees (Common services/bandwidths)

Service and bandwidth assumed	Revised fee (National/New Providence)	Revised fee (Grand Bahama)	Revised fee (any other island)
AM radio – 30 kHz (national)	255	NA	NA
FM radio – 200 kHz	1,700	340	170
Land mobile – 25 kHz (below 470 MHz)	212.50	100	100
Private paging – 25 kHz	212.5	100	100
Private trunking – 250kHz	2,125	425	212.50
Public paging – 25 kHz	212.50	100	100
Public trunking – 250 kHz	2,125	425	212.50
STL – 100 kHz	425	100	100
TV – 6 MHz (commercial)	5,100	1,020	510
<b>Point to multi-point</b>			
At 2.5 GHz – 6 MHz	2,550	510	255
At 3.5 GHz – 2 MHz (first)	850	170	100
At 3.5 GHz – 2 MHz (others)	850	170	100
<b>Point to point links 2.2-6.7 GHz with bandwidth of:</b>			
2x 50 kHz	100	100	100
2x3.5 MHz	1,487.50	297.50	148.75
2x14 MHz	5950	1190	595
2x30 MHz	12,750	255	1275
<b>Point to point links 11 GHz with bandwidth of:</b>			
2x 50 kHz	100	100	100
2x3.5 MHz	297.50	100	100
2x14 MHz	1190	238	119
2x30 MHz	2550	510	255