



# REGULATORY FEES FACT SHEET

Federal Communications Commission  
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Washington, D.C. 20554

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## WHAT YOU OWE – INTERNATIONAL AND SATELLITE SERVICES LICENSEES

This *Fact Sheet* pertains to: international public fixed licensees (Part 23), international (HF) broadcast licensees (Part 73), providers of international bearer circuits, earth station regulatees (Part 25), geostationary space station regulatees (Part 25) and direct broadcast satellite licensees (Part 100), and non-geostationary orbit satellite system licensees (formerly low earth orbit satellite systems) (Part 25).

Regulatory fees for these licensees are assessed based upon the nature of authorization (e.g. permit or license) held as of October 1, 2002. Licensees who have not yet begun providing services prior to October 1, 2002 are not required to pay regulatory fees this year. However, in instances where a service license or authorization is transferred or assigned after October 1, 2002, the fee must be paid by the party that is the licensee or holder of the authorization on the date that the fee payment is due.

Also, in instances in which an earth station's license limits its operational authority to a particular satellite system that is not yet operational, the regulatory fee payment for the earth station will not be due until the first satellite of the related system becomes operational pursuant to section 25.121(d) of our rules.

### Earth Stations

**Who Must Pay:** VSAT and Equivalent C-Band Antennas: Earth station systems comprising very small aperture terminals making up authorized networks operating in the 12 and 14 GHz bands that provide a variety of communications services to other stations in the network. Each system, authorized pursuant to blanket licensing procedures in Part 25 of the Rules, consists of a network of technically-identical small fixed-satellite earth stations which often includes a larger hub station. Entities holding these types of authorizations will be assessed a regulatory fee per authorization or registration as well as a fee for each associated Hub Station.

Mobile Satellite Earth Stations: Under Part 25 of the Rules, mobile satellite service providers operate under blanket licenses for mobile antennas (transceivers) which are smaller than one meter and provide voice or data communications, including position location information, for mobile platforms such as cars, buses or trucks.

Earth Station Antennas: Transmit/Receive and Transmit-Only Antennas: Persons authorized or registered under Part 25 to operate fixed-satellite earth station antennas that are operated by private carriers and common carriers to provide telephone, television, data, and other forms of communication. This category includes antennas used to transmit and receive and transmit-only. Also included in this category are telemetry, tracking and control (TT&C) earth stations and transportable earth stations.

Earth Station Antennas: Receive-Only Antennas: The Commission does not assess regulatory fees for receive-only earth station antennas.

**Fee Calculation:** \$210 per authorization or registration, as well as \$210 for each associated Hub Station.

### **Geostationary Orbit Space Stations and Direct Broadcast Satellite Service**

**Who Must Pay:** Entities authorized to operate space stations in geostationary orbit<sup>1</sup> in accordance with section 25.121(d) and direct broadcast satellites (Part 100).

**Fee Calculation:** \$115,625 per operational station<sup>2</sup> in geostationary orbit. A fee payment is required "upon the commencement of operation of a system's first satellite as reported annually pursuant to sections 25.142(c), 25.143(e), 25.145(g), or upon certification of operation of a single satellite pursuant to section 25.121(d)". Multiple technically identical geostationary satellites co-located at the same orbital location will be considered one station for the purpose of per-space station regulatory fee calculation.

### **Non-Geostationary Orbit Satellite Systems**

**Who Must Pay:** Entities authorized to operate systems of satellites in non-geostationary orbit under Part 25 to provide communications between satellites and earth stations on a common carrier or private carrier basis.

**Fee Calculation:** \$108,375 per operational system<sup>3</sup> in non-geostationary orbit. A fee payment is required "upon the commencement of operation of a system's first satellite as reported annually pursuant to sections 25.142(c), 25.143(e), 25.145(g), or upon certification of operation of a single satellite pursuant to section 25.121(d)".

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<sup>1</sup> Domestic and international satellites, positioned in orbit to remain approximately fixed relative to the earth, authorized to provide communications between satellites and earth stations on a common carrier or private carrier basis in accordance with section 25.121(d). Entities authorized to operate these space stations in accordance with section 25.121(d) will be assessed an annual regulatory fee of \$115,625 for each operational station in geostationary orbit on October 1, 2002.

<sup>2</sup> Stations operating in accordance with section 25.121(d) as of October 1, 2002.

<sup>3</sup> A LEO system consists of one or more satellites operating in a non-geostationary satellite constellation. Payment is required for any LEO System that has one or more satellites operating pursuant to sections 25.142(c), 25.143(e), 25.145(g), or upon certification of operation of a single satellite pursuant to section 25.121(d) as of October 1, 2002.

## **International Bearer Circuits**

**Who Must Pay:** Facilities-based common carriers with active international bearer circuits as of December 31, 2002 in any transmission facility for the provision of service to an end user or resale carrier. In addition, non-common carrier satellite operators must pay a fee for each circuit sold or leased to any customer, including themselves or their affiliates, other than an international common carrier authorized by the Commission to provide U.S. international common carrier services. Private submarine cable operators are also to pay fees for any and all international bearer circuits sold on an indefeasible right of use (IRU) basis or leased to any customer, including themselves or their affiliates, other than an international common carrier authorized by the Commission to provide U.S. international common carrier services.

**Fee Calculation:** \$2.67 per active 64 KB circuit or equivalent.

## **International Public Fixed Radio Licensees**

**Who Must Pay:** Licensees authorized as common carriers to provide radio communications between the United States and a foreign point via microwave, HF or troposcatter systems (other than satellite earth stations). This does not include service between the United States and Mexico and the United States and Canada using frequencies above 72 MHz.

**Fee Calculation:** \$1,725 per call sign.

## **International (HF) Broadcast Stations**

**Who Must Pay:** Licensees of international (HF) broadcast stations, as authorized under Part 73, Subpart F of the Commission's rules.

**Fee Calculation:** \$730 per station license.

The complete International and Satellite Services regulatory fee payment schedule is presented on the following page.

TYPE OF FEE	REGULATORY FEE PAYMENT	PAYMENT TYPE CODE
Earth Stations	\$210 per authorization, registration or Hub Station	0373
Geostationary Orbit Space Stations and Direct Broadcast Satellite Service Licensees	\$115,625 per operational station	0374
Non-Geostationary Orbit Satellite Systems	\$108,375 per operational system	0375
International Bearer Circuits	\$2.67 per active 64 KB circuit or equivalent. *See further guidance and table below.	0376
International Public Fixed Radio Service	\$1,725 per call sign	0377
International (HF) Broadcast Stations	\$730 per station license	0378

\* Equivalent circuits include the 64 KB circuit equivalent of larger bit stream circuits (e.g., the 64 KB equivalent of a 2.048 MB circuit is 30) and analog circuits such as 3 and 4 KHz circuits used for international services. The number of equivalent 64 KB circuits for analog television channels is given by the following table:

ANALOG TELEVISION CHANNEL SIZE (MHz)	NO. OF EQUIVALENT 64 KB CIRCUITS
36	630
24	288
18	240

<u>Actual Speed</u>	<u>in 64 Kbps Units</u>
1 T-1	24
1 E-1	30
1 DS-3	630
1 STM	1,890
5 Gbps	60,480
10 Gbps	120,960

## Special Instructions for Completing FCC Forms 159 & 159-C

In addition to the general Form 159 filing instructions in the *FY 2003 Regulatory Fees Public Notice*, the following information applies specifically to international and satellite services licensees.

### Block (9) - Telephone Number:

- Enter the contact name and telephone number of the specific individual responsible for submitting the payment and supporting FCC Form 159 and Form 159-C.

### Block (11) - PAYER FRN:

- Enter the fee payer's FRN number.

### Block (21) - APPLICANT FRN:

- If different from payer, enter the applicant's FRN number.

### Block (23A) - FCC CALL SIGN/OTHER ID:

- International bearer circuit regulatees should leave this block blank.
- Licensees of all other international and satellite services (earth stations, geostationary space stations, non-geostationary orbit satellites, international public fixed radio, and international (HF) broadcast stations should enter their call sign.

### Block (24A) - PAYMENT TYPE CODES:

- Enter **0373** for a fee payment for an earth station.
- Enter **0374** for a fee payment for a geostationary satellite space station, including direct broadcast satellites.
- Enter **0375** for a fee payment for a non-geostationary orbit satellite system.
- Enter **0376** for a fee payment for a 64 KB or equivalent international bearer circuit.
- Enter **0377** for a fee payment for an international public fixed radio license.
- Enter **0378** for a fee payment for an international (HF) broadcast station license.

### Block (25A) - QUANTITY:

- Fixed-satellite earth station licensees should enter the number of authorizations or registrations.
- All other earth station licensees (e.g., VSATs, mobile satellites and fixed-satellite antennas) should enter the number of authorizations or registrations or Hub Stations.
- Space station licensees (i.e., geostationary satellites or direct broadcast satellites) should enter the number of satellites. Multiple technically identical geostationary satellites co-

located at the same orbital location will be considered one station for the purpose of per-space station regulatory fee calculation.

- Non-geostationary orbit satellite regulatees should enter the number of satellite systems.
- Entities paying for international bearer circuits should enter the number of 64 KB or equivalent circuits.
- International public fixed radio licensees should enter the number of licenses.
- International (HF) broadcast station licensees should enter the number of licenses.

Block (27A) - TOTAL FEE:

- For earth station authorizations or registrations (payment type code **0373**), multiply the amount from Block 25A (Quantity) by \$210.
- For geostationary satellite space station regulatory fees (payment type code **0374**), multiply the amount from Block 25A (Quantity) by \$115,625.
- For non-geostationary orbit satellite system regulatory fees (payment type code **0375**), multiply the amount from Block 25A (Quantity) by \$108,375.
- For international bearer circuit payers (payment type code **0376**), multiply the amount from Block 25A (Quantity) by \$2.67.
- For international public fixed radio licensees (payment type code **0377**), multiply the amount from Block 25A (Quantity) by \$1,725.
- For international (HF) broadcast station licensees (payment type code **0378**), multiply the amount from Block 25A (Quantity) by \$730.

Block (28A) - FCC CODE 1:

- Leave this block blank.

Block (29A) - FCC CODE 2:

- For geostationary space station satellites ONLY, enter the satellite name. For multiple entries use FCC Form 159-C continuation sheet.
- For international bearer circuit payers, enter the company name.

Block (30) - CERTIFICATION:

- Provide the printed name and signature of an individual owner/licensee or officer attesting to the accuracy and completeness of the information supplied.

**Please include a daytime telephone number so that we can contact you if questions arise regarding your payment.**

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