

ALERT

Cable 2017 Annual Regulatory Fees Due by September 26, 2017

September 6, 2017

By **September 26, 2017**, cable operators must pay all required annual regulatory fee payments to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission). Payments received after the deadline will be assessed a 25% late payment penalty.

The use of “Fee Filer” in preparing the regulatory fee filings is mandatory. The Fee Filer website is found here.

Payment may be made by online ACH payment, online credit card, debit card or wire transfer. When paying by wire transfer, a Form 159-E must be transmitted via fax so that the FCC can associate the wire payment with the correct regulatory fee information. The FCC no longer accepts checks (including cashier’s checks and money orders) for payment of regulatory fees.

You are required to pay a fee for all basic cable subscribers^[1] as of **December 31, 2016**, and all FCC authorizations held as of **October 1, 2016**. Payment is required even if the licensed facility is not actively used. For licenses that were assigned or transferred after October 1, 2016, the current licensee is responsible for payment.

The FCC has been aggressive about assessing the 25% penalty even in situations where payment is only a day late. The FCC will withhold action on any application filed by any licensee that is delinquent in any non-tax debts owed to the Commission (including regulatory fees) and will ultimately dismiss those applications or other requests if payment of the delinquent debt or other satisfactory arrangement for payment is not made. Failure to pay regulatory fees can also result in the initiation of a proceeding to revoke any and all authorizations held by the delinquent payer.

Authors

Kathleen A. Kirby
Partner
202.719.3360
kkirby@wiley.law

Joan Stewart
Of Counsel
202.719.7438
jstewart@wiley.law

Practice Areas

Media
Telecom, Media & Technology

For more information about the Commission's regulatory fee procedures, please review this website or contact the FCC Financial Operations Help Desk at (877) 480-3201, Option 4.

If you would like us to assist you in preparing and/or filing your regulatory fee filing, please contact the Wiley Rein attorney who handles your station matters by **Friday, September 15, 2017**.

[1] Cable television system operators should compute their basic subscribers as follows: Number of single family dwellings + number of individual households in multiple dwelling unit (apartments, condominiums, mobile home parks, etc.) paying at the basic subscriber rate + bulk rate customers + courtesy and free service. Note: Bulk-Rate Customers = Total annual bulk-rate charge divided by basic annual subscription rate for individual households. Operators may base their count on "a typical day in the last full week" of December 2016, rather than on a count as of December 31, 2016.