



Australian Government
**Australian Communications
and Media Authority**

Australia's regulator for broadcasting, the internet, radiocommunications and telecommunications

www.acma.gov.au

Apparatus Licence Fee Schedule

6 April 2009

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Licence fee information

INTRODUCTION

The Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) is Australia's regulator for broadcasting, the internet, radiocommunications and telecommunications. ACMA allocates access to the radiofrequency spectrum through one of three licence types: spectrum, apparatus or class licences.

This publication describes the rationale for apparatus licence fees, and provides the necessary information for licensees to calculate their own fees.

Alternatively, licensees may access the 'apparatus licence fee calculator' from the ACMA website at www.acma.gov.au. The calculator will calculate the applicable licence fee when information about the licence is entered.

ABOUT APPARATUS LICENCE FEES

ACMA uses a system of apparatus licence types to apply common licence conditions to categories of radiocommunications services. Most licence types have associated licensing options suitable for specific purposes. Fees charged vary according to the licensing option. See Appendix B for detailed descriptions of licence types and options.

Apparatus licences can be either assigned or non assigned. Assigned licences are issued where licensees require individual frequencies to be allocated. Non assigned licences are issued when an individual frequency assignment is not required, or if a frequency can be selected from a predefined suite.

TAXES AND CHARGES

There are two types of fees applicable to apparatus licences: administrative charges to recover the direct costs of spectrum management, and annual taxes to recover the indirect costs of spectrum management and provide incentives for efficient spectrum use. Indirect costs are those that cannot be directly attributed to individual licensees. These activities include international coordination and domestic planning and interference management.

Appendix D explains each type of administrative charge: issue, renewal and instalment, while Appendix C has a detailed description of the tax formula.

ANNUAL TAX FOR ASSIGNED AND NON ASSIGNED LICENCES

The annual licence tax is applied to each chargeable 'spectrum access' of an assigned licence, and each licence for non assigned licences.

The annual tax for most assigned spectrum accesses (for licences in divisions 1 to 5) is calculated by the licence tax formula. However, most of the components of the tax formula have been calculated and the results placed in the 'annual licence tax (\$ per kHz)' tables in these divisions. Licensees need only to refer to the tables in the applicable division, multiply the relevant figure by the bandwidth of their spectrum access (per kHz) and apply the low power discount if necessary.

The annual tax for some assigned spectrum accesses (for licences in Division 5 to 7) and all non assigned licences (Division 8) is set at a fixed amount.

CHARGEABLE SPECTRUM ACCESS

A spectrum access is the right to use of the spectrum, and requires frequency coordination before issue. Each spectrum access specifies the allowable bandwidth, frequency, geographical site and power of the transmission.

All transmit spectrum accesses are chargeable spectrum accesses. Receive spectrum accesses are only chargeable if there are no transmit spectrum accesses on the same licence.

ACCREDITED PERSONS

Before a spectrum access is assigned, frequency coordination is necessary to ensure that the service will neither suffer from, nor cause, interference. This frequency coordination can be performed by either ACMA or a person accredited by ACMA—an ‘accredited person’. After completing the coordination, an accredited person will provide their client with a frequency assignment certificate (FAC).

When provided with a FAC by an accredited person, ACMA charges a lower fee for the issue of the associated licence.

A list of accredited persons and their contact details is on the ACMA website at www.acma.gov.au (go to Licensing & regulation > Radcommunications licensing > Accreditation for frequency assignment > List of accredited persons).

LICENCE TERMS

Apparatus licences can be issued for any period up to a maximum of five years. Licences may be renewed on expiry, subject to changes in spectrum planning policy.

MINIMUM TAX AMOUNT

The minimum tax for a spectrum access or non assigned licence is \$33.36.

PRICING PRINCIPLES

ACMA employs the following principles so that licence fees contribute to the efficient allocation of spectrum, and to promote an equitable and consistent fee regime:

1. charges should cover the direct administrative costs of issue, renewal and instalment processing;
2. taxes from licensees as a group should recover the indirect costs of spectrum management;
3. taxes should be based on the amount of spectrum denied to other users;
4. spectrum denied should be priced at its opportunity cost (the value of the best alternative use of that spectrum); and
5. if the opportunity cost is less than the indirect costs attributable to the licensee, taxes should only recover costs.

ACMA’s tax formula (Appendix C) and administrative charges (Appendix D) are consistent with these pricing principles. Importantly, the tax formula ensures fees are determinate, consistent, equitable and transparent.

How to calculate your assigned licence fee

1. Find the applicable division

Refer to the ‘licence reference table’ on page 8 and identify the division for your licensing option. Appendix B describes the various licensing options. **For example:** Division 2 (page 12) lists the fees for a fixed point to point licence.

2. Calculate the charge

Find the administrative charge—issue, renewal or instalment—applicable to your licensing option, and multiply by the number of chargeable spectrum accesses.

For example:

- Charges for fixed point to point licences are listed in table 2.1 (page 12).
- A new issue will incur an administrative charge of \$410.00.
- For a new point to point licence with two transmit spectrum accesses, the total administrative charge will be \$820.00.

3. Calculate the tax

Find the ‘annual licence tax (\$ per kHz)’ table for your licensing option, then find the applicable spectrum/geographic location weighting (maps and coordinates for each geographic location are in Appendix F). Multiply the weighting by the bandwidth (in kHz) of each spectrum access, and apply the low power discount if necessary. Add the total for each spectrum access of the licence, then round to the nearest dollar.

For example:

- The location weightings for point to point services are in table 2.2 (page 12).
- For a point to point licence operating in a medium density area, between 399.9 and 960 MHz, the tax per kHz is: 10.7717.
- If a spectrum access has a bandwidth of 12.5 kHz, the annual tax will be:
 $12.5 \times 10.7717 = 134.64625$.
- If the licence period is different from one year, proportion the tax for the number of days of the licence period compared with 365.
- If the spectrum access is low power, reduce the tax by 90 per cent. Low power is not applicable to point to point licences (see Appendix C, page 31, for details).
- Apply the minimum fee—33.36— if the tax is less than the minimum.
- Add the tax for both spectrum accesses. For a point to point licence with two 12.5 kHz spectrum accesses in a medium density area, operating between 399.9 and 960 MHz, the tax will be:
 $134.64625 + 134.64625 = 269.2925$
- Round the total tax amount to the nearest dollar:
 $269.2925 \rightarrow \$269.00$

4. Add the charge and tax

Add the total charge amount and total tax amount.

For example:

- The total licence fee for a point to point licence with two spectrum accesses, both with 12.5 kHz bandwidth, operating between 399.9 and 960 MHz in medium density areas, the total fee will be:
 $\$820.00 + \$269.00 = \$1,089.00$

Taxes and charges

Where to find your division

Licence reference table

Licence type	Licensing options	Division	Page
Aeronautical	Aeronautical assigned system	1	10
Aircraft	Aircraft assigned	1	10
Amateur (non assigned)	Advanced	7	18
	Beacon	7	18
	Foundation	7	18
	Repeater	7	18
	Standard	7	18
Broadcasting	Broadcast service	6	17
	HF domestic service	1	10
	HF overseas IBL service	1	10
	HF overseas service	1	10
	Narrowband area service	4	15
	Open narrowcasting service (LPON)	1	10
	Open narrowcasting service (HPON)	8	20
Datacasting		6	17
Defence		1	10
Defence receive		1	10
Earth	Fixed earth	1	10
	Mobile earth	1	10
Earth receive		1	10
Fixed	900 MHz studio to transmitter link	1	10
	Point to multipoint	3	14
	Point to multipoint (land mobile spectrum)	4	15
	Point to multipoint system	4	15

	Point to point	2	12
	Point to point (5.8 GHz band)	6	17
	Point to point (self-coordinated) stations	6	17
	Sound outside broadcast station	7	18
	Television outside broadcast network	5	16
	Television outside broadcast station	5	16
	Television outside broadcast system	5	16
	Temporary fixed link	7	18
Fixed receive		2	12
Land mobile	Ambulatory station	1	10
	Ambulatory system	4	15
	CBRS repeater	1	10
	Land mobile system	4	15
	PABX cordless telephone service	6	17
	Paging system	4	15
Major coast receive		1	10
Maritime coast	Limited coast assigned system	1	10
	Limited coast marine rescue	7	18
	Limited coast non assigned	7	18
	Major coast A or B	1	10
Maritime ship	Ship station class B or C assigned	1	10
	Ship station class B or C non assigned	7	18
Outpost	Outpost assigned	1	10
	Outpost non assigned	7	18
Public Telecommunications Service (PTS)	PMTS class A	1	10
	PMTS class B	6	17
Radiodetermination		1	10
Scientific	Scientific assigned	1	10
	Scientific non assigned	7	18
Space	Space	1	10
	Space NGSO > 8.5 GHz	6	17
Space receive	Space receive	1	10
	Space receive NGSO > 8.5 GHz	6	17

Division 1: General assigned licences

Table 1.1: Licence charges

Licensing option	Issue charge (GST excl)	Renewal/instalment charge
900 MHz studio to transmitter link	\$410	\$3.00
Aeronautical assigned system	\$287	\$3.00
Aircraft assigned	\$123	\$3.00
All HF broadcasting options	\$164/hr	\$3.00
Ambulatory station	*\$410/\$123	\$3.00
CBRS repeater	\$287	\$3.00
Defence	\$164/hr	\$3.00
Defence receive	\$164/hr	\$3.00
Earth receive	\$164/hr	\$3.00
Fixed earth	\$164/hr	\$3.00
Limited coast assigned system	\$287	\$3.00
Major coast A or B	\$164/hr	\$3.00
Major coast receive	\$164/hr	\$3.00
Mobile earth	\$164/hr	\$3.00
Narrowcasting service (LPON)	Issued by auction	\$3.00
Outpost assigned	\$164/hr	\$3.00
PMTS Class A	\$164/hr	\$164/hr
Radiodetermination	\$287	\$3.00
Scientific assigned	\$164/hr	\$3.00
Ship station class B or C assigned	\$164/hr	\$3.00
Space	\$164/hr	\$3.00
Space receive	\$164/hr	\$3.00

\$164 hourly rate is subject to a minimum charge of \$82.

For the issue charge when the frequency assignment is carried out by an accredited person, see page 21.

*The \$410 new issue charge will be for the initial assigned frequency. When an existing ambulatory station frequency assignment for a client is copied to another ambulatory station licence, the new issue charge will be \$123.

Table 1.2: Annual licence tax (\$ per kHz)

Spectrum location	Geographic location				
	Australia wide	High density	Medium density	Low density	Remote density
0 to 30 MHz	0.9815	0.9815	0.9815	0.9815	0.9815
>30 to 70 MHz	2.2171	0.8659	0.4606	0.0994	0.0496
>70 to 399.9 MHz	2.2746	0.9335	0.4272	0.0958	0.0478
>399.9 to 960 MHz	2.2746	1.2738	0.5828	0.0994	0.0496
>960 to 2,690 MHz	2.2712	0.5098	0.2357	0.1185	0.0591
>2.69 to 5.0 GHz	2.2688	0.4214	0.1708	0.1415	0.0707
>5.0 to 8.5 GHz	1.9155	0.3541	0.1649	0.0751	0.0364
>8.5 to 14.5 GHz	0.8441	0.3039	0.0719	0.0052	0.0025
>14.5 to 31.3 GHz	0.8441	0.2247	0.0494	0.0052	0.0025
>31.3 to 51.4 GHz	0.2301	0.1226	0.0266	0.0010	0.0004
>51.4 GHz	0.0227	0.0022	0.0022	0.0002	0.0002

The minimum tax is \$33.36. For low power discount see Appendix C (page 31).

Before adding administrative charges, add tax for each spectrum access and round to the nearest dollar.

Space licences: The tax is reduced by 75 per cent where CDMA technology is used for a space licence in the 2483.5–2500 MHz band or a space receive licence in the 1610–1626.5 MHz band.

Table 1.3: Examples of annual licence tax amounts

Spectrum location	Bandwidth (Bi)	Geographic location				
		Australia wide	High density	Medium density	Low density	Remote density
0 to 30 MHz	6 kHz	\$33.36	\$33.36	\$33.36	\$33.36	\$33.36
>30 to 70 MHz	26 kHz	\$57.64	\$33.36	\$33.36	\$33.36	\$33.36
>30 to 70 MHz	50 kHz	\$110.86	\$43.30	\$33.36	\$33.36	\$33.36
>70 to 399.9 MHz	12.5 kHz	\$33.36	\$33.36	\$33.36	\$33.36	\$33.36
>70 to 399.9 MHz	25 kHz	\$56.87	\$33.36	\$33.36	\$33.36	\$33.36
>70 to 399.9 MHz	200 kHz	\$454.92	\$186.69	\$85.44	\$33.36	\$33.36
>399.9 to 960 MHz	12.5 kHz	\$33.36	\$33.36	\$33.36	\$33.36	\$33.36
>960 to 2,690 MHz	5 MHz	\$11,356.03	\$2,548.93	\$1,178.44	\$592.69	\$295.54
>2.69 to 5.0 GHz	1 MHz	\$2,268.75	\$421.44	\$170.82	\$141.48	\$70.74
>5.0 to 8.5 GHz	1 MHz	\$1,915.49	\$354.12	\$164.95	\$75.11	\$36.38
>8.5 to 14.5 GHz	1 MHz	\$844.06	\$303.87	\$71.91	\$33.36	\$33.36
>8.5 to 14.5 GHz	20 MHz	\$16,881.20	\$6,077.32	\$1,438.24	\$104.56	\$49.08

Division 2: Fixed point to point licences

Table 2.1: Licence charges

Licensing option	Issue charge (GST excl)	Renewal/instalment charge
Point to point	\$410	\$3.00
Fixed receive	\$164	\$3.00

For the issue charge when the frequency assignment is carried out by an accredited person, see page 21.

Services with two transmit frequencies incur two tax amounts and two administrative charges (whether issue, renewal or instalment).

Table 2.2: Annual licence tax (\$ per kHz)

Spectrum location	Geographic location				
	Australia wide	High density	Medium density	Low density	Remote density
0 to 30 MHz	18.1421	18.1421	18.1421	18.1421	14.2182
>30 to 70 MHz	40.9805	16.0062	8.5140	1.8373	0.7183
>70 to 399.9 MHz	42.0443	17.2550	7.8959	1.7701	0.6920
>399.9 to 960 MHz	42.0443	23.5448	10.7717	1.8373	0.7183
>960 to 2,690 MHz	0.9924	0.2227	0.1030	0.0517	0.0258
>2.69 to 5.0 GHz	0.9913	0.1842	0.0747	0.0618	0.0309
>5.0 to 8.5 GHz	0.8369	0.1547	0.0720	0.0328	0.0159
>8.5 to 14.5 GHz	0.3688	0.1327	0.0314	0.0022	0.0011
>14.5 to 31.3 GHz	0.3688	0.0982	0.0216	0.0022	0.0011
>31.3 to 51.4 GHz	0.1006	0.0536	0.0116	0.0004	0.0002
>51.4 GHz	0.0099	0.0010	0.0010	0.0001	0.0001

The minimum tax is \$33.36.

Before adding administrative charges, add tax for each spectrum access and round to the nearest dollar.

Table 2.3: Examples of annual licence tax amounts

Spectrum location	Bandwidth	Geographic location				
		Australia wide	High density	Medium density	Low density	Remote density
0 to 30 MHz	3 kHz	\$54.43	\$54.43	\$54.43	\$54.43	\$42.65
0 to 30 MHz	6 kHz	\$108.85	\$108.85	\$108.85	\$108.85	\$85.31
>30 to 70 MHz	20 kHz	\$819.61	\$320.12	\$170.28	\$36.75	\$33.36
>70 to 399.9 MHz	12.5 kHz	\$525.55	\$215.69	\$98.70	\$33.36	\$33.36
>70 to 399.9 MHz	25 kHz	\$1,051.11	\$431.37	\$197.40	\$44.25	\$33.36
>399.9 to 960 MHz	12.5 kHz	\$525.55	\$294.31	\$134.65	\$33.36	\$33.36
>399.9 to 960 MHz	25 kHz	\$1,051.11	\$588.62	\$269.29	\$45.93	\$33.36
>399.9 to 960 MHz	200 kHz	\$8,408.85	\$4,708.96	\$2,154.35	\$367.47	\$143.66
>399.9 to 960 MHz	1.82 MHz	\$76,520.55	\$42,851.51	\$19,604.57	\$3,343.95	\$1,307.35
>960 to 2,690 MHz	2 MHz	\$1,984.73	\$445.34	\$205.92	\$103.49	\$51.64
>960 to 2,690 MHz	4 MHz	\$3,969.46	\$890.69	\$411.84	\$206.99	\$103.28
>960 to 2,690 MHz	14 MHz	\$13,893.12	\$3,117.40	\$1,441.44	\$724.46	\$361.48
>960 to 2,690 MHz	29 MHz	\$28,778.60	\$6,457.47	\$2,985.85	\$1,500.66	\$748.78
>2.69 to 5.0 GHz	40 MHz	\$39,651.94	\$7,366.19	\$2,987.45	\$2,471.04	\$1,237.66
>5.0 to 8.5 GHz	7 MHz	\$5,858.38	\$1,082.95	\$504.13	\$229.29	\$111.28
>5.0 to 8.5 GHz	14 MHz	\$11,716.76	\$2,165.90	\$1,008.26	\$458.57	\$222.56
>5.0 to 8.5 GHz	29.65 MHz	\$24,814.43	\$4,587.06	\$2,135.36	\$971.19	\$471.36
>5.0 to 8.5 GHz	40 MHz	\$33,476.47	\$6,188.28	\$2,880.75	\$1,310.21	\$635.90
>8.5 to 14.5 GHz	7 MHz	\$2,581.90	\$929.10	\$219.58	\$33.36	\$33.36
>8.5 to 14.5 GHz	14 MHz	\$5,163.80	\$1,858.19	\$439.15	\$33.36	\$33.36
>8.5 to 14.5 GHz	28 MHz	\$10,327.60	\$3,716.38	\$878.31	\$62.74	\$33.36
>8.5 to 14.5 GHz	40 MHz	\$14,753.72	\$5,309.12	\$1,254.73	\$89.62	\$42.68
>14.5 to 31.3 GHz	7 MHz	\$2,581.90	\$687.11	\$150.87	\$33.36	\$33.36
>14.5 to 31.3 GHz	7.5 MHz	\$2,766.32	\$736.19	\$161.64	\$33.36	\$33.36
>14.5 to 31.3 GHz	14 MHz	\$5,163.80	\$1,374.23	\$301.73	\$33.36	\$33.36
>14.5 to 31.3 GHz	20 MHz	\$7,376.86	\$1,963.18	\$431.05	\$44.81	\$33.36
>14.5 to 31.3 GHz	27.5 MHz	\$10,143.18	\$2,699.37	\$592.69	\$61.62	\$33.36
>14.5 to 31.3 GHz	28 MHz	\$10,327.60	\$2,748.45	\$603.46	\$62.74	\$33.36
>31.3 to 51.4 GHz	7 MHz	\$704.29	\$374.92	\$81.41	\$33.36	\$33.36
>31.3 to 51.4 GHz	28 MHz	\$2,817.16	\$1,499.70	\$325.63	\$33.36	\$33.36
>51.4 GHz	28 MHz	\$277.83	\$33.36	\$33.36	\$33.36	\$33.36

Division 3: Fixed point to multipoint licences

Table 3.1: Licence charges

Licensing option	Issue charge (GST excl)	Renewal/Instalment charge
Point to multipoint	\$492	\$3.00

For the issue charge when the frequency assignment is carried out by an accredited person, see page 21.

Table 3.2: Annual licence tax (\$ per kHz)

Spectrum location	Geographic location				
	Australia wide	High density	Medium density	Low density	Remote density
0 to 30 MHz	72.5684	72.5684	72.5684	72.5684	56.1492
>30 to 70 MHz	163.9222	64.0250	34.0559	7.3493	2.8367
>70 to 399.9 MHz	168.1770	69.0199	31.5836	7.0803	2.7326
>399.9 to 960 MHz	168.1770	94.1791	43.0870	7.3493	2.8367
>960 to 2,690 MHz	0.9924	0.2227	0.1030	0.0517	0.0258
>2.69 to 5.0 GHz	0.9913	0.1842	0.0747	0.0618	0.0309
>5.0 to 8.5 GHz	0.8369	0.1547	0.0720	0.0328	0.0159
>8.5 to 14.5 GHz	0.3688	0.1327	0.0314	0.0022	0.0011
>14.5 to 31.3 GHz	0.3688	0.0982	0.0216	0.0022	0.0011
>31.3 to 51.4 GHz	0.1006	0.0536	0.0116	0.0004	0.0002
>51.4 GHz	0.0099	0.0010	0.0010	0.0001	0.0001

The minimum tax is \$33.36.

Before adding administrative charges, add tax for each spectrum access and round to the nearest dollar.

Table 3.3: Examples of annual licence tax amounts

Spectrum location	Bandwidth	Geographic location				
		Australia wide	High density	Medium density	Low density	Remote density
0 to 30 MHz	3 kHz	\$217.71	\$217.71	\$217.71	\$217.71	\$168.45
0 to 30 MHz	6 kHz	\$435.41	\$435.41	\$435.41	\$435.41	\$336.90
>30 to 70 MHz	25 kHz	\$4,098.05	\$1,600.62	\$851.40	\$183.73	\$70.92
>70 to 399.9 MHz	12.5 kHz	\$2,102.21	\$862.75	\$394.80	\$88.50	\$34.16
>70 to 399.9 MHz	25 kHz	\$4,204.43	\$1,725.50	\$789.59	\$177.01	\$68.32
>399.9 to 960 MHz	12.5 kHz	\$2,102.21	\$1,177.24	\$538.59	\$91.87	\$35.46
>960 to 2,690 MHz	2 MHz	\$1,984.73	\$445.34	\$205.92	\$103.49	\$51.64
>2.69 to 5.0 GHz	307 kHz	\$304.33	\$56.54	\$33.36	\$33.36	\$33.36

Division 4: Assigned licences in high demand frequency bands

Table 4.1: Licence charges

Licensing option	Issue charge (GST excl)	Renewal/ Instalment charge
Narrowband area service	Note 1	\$3.00
Point to multipoint system	\$492	\$3.00
Point to multipoint (land mobile spectrum)	\$492	\$3.00
Ambulatory system	\$410	\$3.00
Land mobile system (0-30 MHz)	*\$123/\$492	\$3.00
Land mobile system (>30 MHz)	\$492	\$3.00
Paging system (interior)	\$246	\$3.00
Paging system (exterior)	\$287	\$3.00

For the issue charge when the frequency assignment is carried out by an accredited person see page 21.

Note 1: The issue charge is \$492 for operation in the frequency band 70–960 MHz. Otherwise an issue charge of \$164 per hour is applied (subject to a minimum of \$82).

*The issue charge will be \$123.00 if the time taken to issue the licence is less than 45 minutes and the charge will be \$492 if it takes more than 45 minutes.

Table 4.2: Annual licence tax (\$ per kHz)

Spectrum location	Geographic location				
	Australia wide	High density	Medium density	Low density	Remote density
0 to 30 MHz	72.5684	72.5684	72.5684	72.5684	72.5684
>30 to 70 MHz	163.9221	64.0250	34.0558	7.3493	3.6662
>70 to 399.9 MHz	168.1770	69.0198	31.5836	7.0802	3.5317
>399.9 to 960 MHz	168.1770	94.1791	43.0870	7.3493	3.6662

The minimum tax is \$33.36. For low power discount see page 31.

Before adding administrative charges, add tax for each spectrum access and round to the nearest dollar.

Table 4.3: Examples of annual licence tax amounts

Spectrum location	Bandwidth	Geographic location				
		Australia wide	High density	Medium density	Low density	Remote density
0 to 30 MHz	3 kHz	\$217.71	\$217.71	\$217.71	\$217.71	\$217.71
0 to 30 MHz	6 kHz	\$435.41	\$435.41	\$435.41	\$435.41	\$435.41
>30 to 70 MHz	25 kHz	\$4,098.05	\$1,600.63	\$851.40	\$183.73	\$91.66
>70 to 399.9 MHz	12.5 kHz	\$2,102.21	\$862.75	\$394.79	\$88.50	\$44.15
>70 to 399.9 MHz	25 kHz	\$4,204.42	\$1,725.50	\$789.59	\$177.01	\$88.29
>399.9 to 960 MHz	12.5 kHz	\$2,102.21	\$1,177.24	\$538.59	\$91.87	\$45.83
>399.9 to 960 MHz	25 kHz	\$4,204.42	\$2,354.48	\$1,077.17	\$183.73	\$91.66

Division 5: Television outside broadcast licences

Table 5.1: Licence charges

Licensing option	Issue charge (GST excl)	Renewal/ Instalment charge
Television outside broadcast station	\$246	\$3.00
Television outside broadcast network (per licence)	\$19	\$19.00
Television outside broadcast system	\$246	\$3.00

For the issue charge when the frequency assignment is carried out by an accredited person see page 21.

Table 5.2: Annual licence tax television outside broadcast station (\$ per kHz)

Spectrum location	Geographic location				
	Australia wide	High density	Medium density	Low density	Remote density
>960 to 2,690 MHz	1.1651	0.2615	0.1209	0.0608	0.0303
>2.69 to 5.0 GHz	1.1638	0.2163	0.0876	0.0726	0.0363
>5.0 to 8.5 GHz	0.9827	0.1817	0.0846	0.0385	0.0187
>8.5 to 14.5 GHz	0.4331	0.1559	0.0369	0.0027	0.0013
>14.5 to 31.3 GHz	0.4331	0.1153	0.0253	0.0027	0.0013
>31.3 to 51.4 GHz	0.1181	0.0628	0.0137	0.0004	0.0002
Above 51.4 GHz	0.0116	0.0012	0.0012	0.0001	0.0001

The minimum tax is \$33.36.

Before adding administrative charges, add tax for each spectrum access then round to the nearest dollar.

Table 5.3: Annual licence tax for television outside broadcast system or network

Licensing option	Geographic location				
	Australia wide	High density	Medium density	Low density	Remote density
Television outside broadcast network (per licence)	\$335,348.00				
Television outside broadcast system	\$35,932.00	\$6,645.00	\$3,094.00	\$1,410.00	\$705.00

Division 6: Assigned licences subject to a fixed tax

Table 6.1: Licence charges and annual tax

Licensing option	Issue Charge (GST excl)	Renewal/ Instalment charge	Annual licence tax
Broadcast service (per transmitter)	\$164/hr	\$3.00	\$33.36
Datacasting (per transmitter)	Auction	\$3.00	\$33.36
PABX cordless telephone service (per licence)	\$205	\$3.00	\$33.36
Point to point (5.8 GHz band) (paired)	\$123	\$3.00	\$33.36
Point to point (self-coordinated) stations (paired)	\$123	\$3.00	\$192.00
PMTS class B (900 MHz) (paired)	\$164/hr	\$164/hr	\$2,720,709/MHz
PMTS class B (1.8 GHz) (paired)	\$164/hr	\$164/hr	\$0.01 /MHz/pop
Space NGSO > 8.5 GHz	\$164/hr	\$3.00	\$238.00/MHz
Space receive NGSO > 8.5 GHz	\$164/hr	\$3.00	\$238.00/MHz

\$164 hourly rate is subject to a minimum charge of \$82.

Before adding administrative charges, add tax for each spectrum access and round to the nearest dollar.

Division 7: Non assigned licence fees

Table 7.1: Non assigned licences taken out for one year

Licensing option	Issue/ renewal charge (GST excl)	Tax amount	Total fee (charge + tax)
All amateur licensing options	\$23.00	\$40.93	\$64.00
Limited coast marine rescue	\$12.00	\$33.36	\$45.00
Limited coast non assigned	\$12.00	\$33.36	\$45.00
Ship station class B non assigned	\$15.00	\$33.36	\$48.00
Ship station class C non assigned	\$13.00	\$33.36	\$46.00
Outpost non assigned	\$6.00	\$33.36	\$39.00
Scientific non assigned	\$12.00	\$33.36	\$45.00
Sound outside broadcast	\$12.00	\$33.36	\$45.00
Temporary fixed link	\$12.00	\$1,858.19	\$1,870.00

Table 7.2: Non assigned licences taken out for multiple years

Licensing option	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years
All amateur licensing options	\$125.00	\$186.00	\$247.00	\$308.00
Limited coast marine rescue	\$88.00	\$130.00	\$172.00	\$215.00
Limited coast non assigned	\$88.00	\$130.00	\$172.00	\$215.00
Outpost non assigned	\$76.00	\$112.00	\$148.00	\$185.00
Scientific non assigned	\$88.00	\$130.00	\$172.00	\$215.00
Ship station class B non assigned	\$94.00	\$139.00	\$184.00	\$230.00
Ship station class C non assigned	\$90.00	\$133.00	\$176.00	\$220.00
Sound outside broadcast	\$88.00	\$130.00	\$172.00	\$215.00
Temporary fixed link	\$3,737.00	\$5,605.00	\$7,472.00	\$9,339.00

Note: These figures incorporate a rounded tax amount, plus an administrative charge component.

Multi-year fee formula:

$(\text{Tax} + \text{charge}) \times \text{number of years}$, less a discount of \$3.00 for each year more than one

For example: a four-year licence receives a discount of $3 \times \$3.00$.

Non assigned licences taken out for part years

1. Charge

Issue/renewal amount x no. of days of licence

365

Round to the nearest dollar (subject to a minimum of \$3.00)

2. Tax

Tax amount x no. of days of licence

365

Round to the nearest dollar

3. Add rounded tax amount to charge

Division 8: Narrowcasting service (HPON) licence

High power open narrowcasting service (HPON) licences are auctioned according to the specifications of licence area plans (LAP). However, in the past some licences were auctioned for use on a temporary basis before the relevant LAP was completed. In 2001, pre-LAP licences were granted extended tenure and the annual tax amount was increased to reflect this. After 1 July 2007, pre-LAP licences will be subject to the same fees regime as post-LAP licences.

Table 8.1: Licence charges

Licensing option	Issue charge (GST excl)	Renewal/ Instalment charge
High power open narrowcasting service (HPONS)	By auction	\$3.00

Table 8.2: Annual licence tax

Location	Post-LAP tax	Pre-LAP tax
Sydney	\$33,167	\$117,927
Melbourne	\$33,167	\$104,413
Brisbane	\$12,038	
Adelaide	\$12,038	\$22,111
Perth	\$12,038	\$35,623
Perth City	\$12,038	
Newcastle	\$3,071	
Canberra	\$3,071	
Wollongong	\$3,071	
Gold Coast	\$3,071	
Gosford	\$3,071	\$15,969
Penrith	\$3,071	
Hobart	\$1,352	\$1,352
Geelong	\$1,352	\$15,969
Nambour	\$1,352	
Townsville	\$1,352	
Cairns	\$1,352	
Elsewhere	\$798	

The minimum tax is \$798.

If the LAP for the licence provides that:

- the maximum effective radiated power for the relevant station is not more than 100 watts or
- the maximum cymomotive force for the relevant station is not more than 100 volts or
- the coverage radius for the service is not more than 15 kilometres from the nominal location of the transmitter within the meaning given by the licence area plan, then the annual amount for the licence is half the amount stated in the table above, subject to the minimum tax of \$798.

Division 9: Other charges

Table 9.1: Issue a licence with a frequency assignment certificate

Type of FAC	Service	Charge (GST excl)
Paper-based	Amateur beacon or repeater station	\$23
	Group of two or more applications lodged at the same time on a no interference/no protection basis for a temporary event or military manoeuvres	\$164/hr
	Other	\$123
Electronic (internet)	Amateur beacon or repeater station	\$23
	Other	\$82

Table 9.2: Varying a licence condition

Service	Charge (GST excl)
Amateur beacon or repeater station	\$23
Assigned or non-assigned licence that takes less than 15 minutes to consider variation	\$41
Licence variation without FAC that takes more than 15 minutes to consider	\$164/hr
Licence variation accompanied by paper FAC that takes more than 15 minutes to consider	\$123
Licence variation with FAC lodged on-line that takes more than 15 minutes to consider	\$82

Table 9.3: Licensing hourly rate

Service	Charge (GST excl)
Standard hourly rate for radiocommunications licensing activities	\$164
Minimum charge	\$82

Table 9.4: Transfer of a licence

Service	Charge (GST excl)
Consideration of a licence transfer (up to 4 transfers)	\$41
Consideration of a licence transfer (more than 4 transfers)	\$164/hr

Table 9.5: Documents

Service	Charge (GST incl)
Issue licence with changes to licensee details	\$45.10
Issue of duplicate instrument	\$45.10

Table 9.6: Providing a list of services within a specified frequency range

Service	Charge (GST incl)
Within a specified radius of a specified geographic location (an adjacent services listing)	\$90.20
In a specified state or territory (a frequency scan report)	\$90.20

Table 9.7: Publications

Publication		Charge (GST incl)
Spectrum plan	Spectrum Plan	\$27.50
	Postage	\$8.80
Spectrum wall chart	Spectrum wall chart	\$24.20
	Postage (mailing tube – up to 250g)	\$6.60
Data sales	RRL Database CD-ROM (Note 1)	\$114.40
	RRL daily update subscription	\$244.20
	RRL daily update subscription and 12 month supply of RRL database CD-ROM	\$1,545.50
	Spectrum licensing RadDEM and datasets on CD-ROM (Note 2)	\$101.20

Table 9.8: Accreditation application

Service	Charge (GST excl)
Assessing an application for an accreditation of a particular kind	\$273

Note 1: Radiocommunications Register of Licences

Note 2: Radiocommunications Digital Elevation Model

Appendices

Appendix A: Changes to the Fee Schedule April 2009

1. Modified CPI increase of 4.5 per cent

Every year all apparatus licence taxes are increased by CPI. This ensures that the desired outcomes of the tax, efficient use of spectrum and indirect cost recovery, are not dissipated by the effects of inflation.

In 2009 the CPI adjustment of 4.5%, reflecting price changes from June 2007 to June 2008, applied to all licence taxes except for those for fixed services operating below 960 MHz in remote density areas.

2. Taxes for fixed services below 960 MHz

The program of fee increases for fixed licences in bands below 960 MHz seeks to achieve pricing parity between fixed and land mobile licences in those bands.

The first of five planned increases occurred in 2005, and affected licensees were notified of the program with their licence renewal. The fifth stage of tax increases for fixed services in bands below 960 MHz applied from April 2009. At the end of the program in 2010, taxes for point to multipoint licences will be equal to land mobile taxes, and point to point licence taxes will be one-quarter of the fee for land mobile licences.

Appendix B: Licence types and licensing options

Aeronautical

An aeronautical licence is issued to authorise a station that:

- is not fixed to an aircraft;
- is operated on aeronautical frequencies;
- is operated for purposes relating to aircraft, airport or aerodrome operations; and
- may be a mobile station on board the aircraft or on the ground in communication with aircraft.

An aeronautical licence is necessary to authorise the operation of stations providing:

- air traffic control services;
- aerodrome radio information services;
- private company radiocommunications; and
- other airport or aerodrome services.

Aeronautical licensing options

- aeronautical assigned system.

Aircraft

An aircraft licence is issued to authorise a station fixed on board:

- aircraft; or
- recreational aircraft (e.g. ultralights, trikes, hang gliders, paragliders, gyrocopters, gliders, sailplanes and balloons).

A separate aircraft licence is only issued for a station not covered by the *Radiocommunications (Aircraft and Aeronautical Mobile Stations) Class Licence 2006*.

Aircraft licensing option

- aircraft assigned.

Amateur

An amateur licence is issued to authorise a station that:

- is operated for the purposes of self-training in radiocommunications, intercommunication using radiocommunications, and technical investigation into radiocommunications by persons who do so solely with a personal aim and who have no pecuniary interest in

the outcome of the operations of the station;

- is operated on amateur frequencies or amateur frequency bands; and
- may participate in the amateur-satellite service.

Amateur licensing options

- advanced
- beacon
- foundation
- repeater
- standard.

Broadcasting

A broadcasting licence is issued to authorise transmitters delivering, by means other than by satellite, television or radio programs to persons having commonly available equipment to receive the service. Such licences may also authorise engineering tests for stations

intended to be used to broadcast television or radio programs.

Broadcasting services must comply with both the *Radiocommunications Act 1992* and the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992*.

Broadcasting licensing options

- broadcast service
- HF domestic service
- HF overseas (IBL) service
- HF overseas service
- narrowband area service
- narrowcasting service (LPON)
- narrowcasting service (HPON)

A broadcast service licence authorises transmissions by a holder of a national, commercial or community broadcasting licence under the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992*.

A narrowcasting service licence is issued for narrowcasting services operating in broadcasting services bands. Radio narrowcasting services can be either high power open narrowcasting services (HPONs) or low power open narrowcasting services (LPONs).

A narrowband area service licence is issued for narrowcasting services operating outside broadcasting services bands.

HF broadcasting licences authorise broadcasting transmissions in the frequency range 2.3 MHz to 26.1 MHz. An HF domestic service licence is issued for services serving Australia and its territories. An HF overseas service licence is issued for a national broadcaster (ABC or SBS) broadcasting to overseas locations. HF overseas (IBL) service licences are issued to other broadcasters broadcasting to overseas locations.

Datacasting

A datacasting licence is issued to authorise transmitters operated for the purpose of delivering a datacasting service by means other than satellite. See the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* for more details.

Defence

A defence station must operate principally for the purposes of defence. The station must either operate within bands designated to be used principally for the purposes of defence; or be used for a service intended to be used principally for the purpose of defence under the Australian Radiofrequency Spectrum Plan.

Defence receive

A defence receive station must operate principally for the purposes of defence and not be capable of transmitting messages of any kind. The station must either operate within bands designated to be used principally for the purposes of defence, or be used for a service intended to be used principally for the purpose of defence under the Australian Radiofrequency Spectrum Plan.

Earth

An earth licence is issued to authorise operation of a terrestrial transmitter that is communicating with a satellite.

If a terrestrial transmitter is communicating with a satellite and the operation of the associated receiver on the satellite is authorised

by a space receive licence, operation of the transmitter is authorised by a class licence.

In all other cases, the operation of terrestrial transmitters to communicate with satellites must be authorised by an earth licence.

Earth licensing options

- fixed earth
- mobile earth.

Earth receive

An earth receive licence is issued to authorise operation of a terrestrial receiver that is communicating with a satellite.

If a terrestrial receiver is communicating with a satellite and the operation of the associated transmitter on the satellite is authorised by a space licence, operation of the receiver is generally authorised by a class licence.

If operation of the associated transmitter on the satellite is not authorised by a space licence, operation of the terrestrial receiver may be authorised by an earth receive licence.

Fixed

A fixed licence is issued for stations that:

- are located principally
 - at fixed points specified in the station's transmitter licence; or
 - in an area specified in the licence; and
- are operated principally for communications with stations located
 - at one or more other fixed points specified in the licence; or
 - in an area specified in the licence; and
- if permitted by the station's transmitter licence, may communicate with
 - an aircraft station, but not on an aeronautical frequency; and
 - a ship station, but not on a maritime frequency; and
 - land mobile station, but not on a land mobile frequency.

Fixed licensing options

- 900 MHz studio to transmitter link
- point to multipoint
- point to multipoint (land mobile spectrum)
- point to multipoint system
- point to point
- point to point (5.8 GHz band)
- point to point (self-coordinated) stations
- sound outside broadcast station
- television outside broadcast network
- television outside broadcast station
- television outside broadcast system
- temporary fixed link.

A point to point licence authorises communications between two fixed stations. Each transmitter must be separately licensed.

Point to point (5.8GHz band) and point to point (self-coordinated) stations are licensed as a pair.

A point to multipoint licence authorises communications between a base station and more than one remote station within an area specified on the licence. It may also authorise the operation of remote control stations and supplementary base stations.

Point to multipoint licences in land mobile segments of the 400 MHz band attract a land mobile fee.

A point to multipoint system is a network of point to multipoint stations operating within a specified coverage area.

A 900 MHz studio to transmitter link is a point to point station within the frequency range greater than 820 MHz and less than 960 MHz that transmits sound broadcasting programs from a studio to a broadcasting transmitter site.

Sound outside broadcast and television outside broadcast licences authorise temporary fixed links established to provide radio or television broadcasting coverage of an event remotely located from a broadcasting studio.

- is used for communications between land stations and land mobile stations; or

A temporary fixed link licence authorises a fixed link that may be deployed anywhere in Australia for a period of up to 14 days on available channels in the 13, 15 or 22 GHz

bands. Frequency coordination is necessary before every deployment.

Fixed receive

A fixed receive licence is issued for fixed stations:

- that are used only for receiving messages; and
- that are not capable of transmitting messages of any kind; and
- for which ACMA or an accredited person undertakes coordination procedures for the purpose of minimising interference to reception.

Although receivers at fixed stations do not have to be licensed, it is the only means by which they can be protected from interference.

Land mobile

A land mobile licence is issued for a radiocommunications service that:

- comprises one or more land stations or land mobile stations; and
- is used for communications between land stations and land mobile stations; or
 - land mobile stations; or
 - land mobile stations through another land station; or
 - land stations through another land station; and
- may communicate with
 - an aircraft station, but not on an aeronautical frequency; or
 - a maritime ship station, but not on a maritime frequency.

Land mobile licensing options

- ambulatory station
- ambulatory system
- citizen band radio service (CBRS) repeater
- land mobile system
- PABX cordless telephone service
- paging system.
- A land mobile system licence authorises communications between base stations and land mobile stations. Individual licences are not issued for mobile stations, remote control stations of 1 watt or less, standby base stations that are not capable of transmitting messages of any kind;

and supplementary base stations within the operating range of the main base station. All of

these are considered to be part of a land mobile system.

A paging system licence facilitates the operation of portable receiving devices used to contact or convey messages to individuals.

Networks consisting only of mobiles may be licensed under the ambulatory system licensing option, or individual mobiles may be licensed under the ambulatory station option.

A CBRS repeater is a fixed station established for the reception and automatic retransmission of citizen band (CB) radio signals.

Wireless PABX services using CT3 technology in the 857–861 MHz band are licensed under the PABX cordless telephone service option. Handsets are authorised under a class licence.

Major coast receive

The major coast receive licence is issued for stations:

- that are used on land principally for receiving messages transmitted by maritime ship stations;
- that are not capable of transmitting messages of any kind;
- that may be used for receiving messages transmitted by aircraft stations, land mobile stations and outpost stations; and
- for which ACMA or an accredited person, undertakes coordination procedures for the purpose of minimising interference to reception.

Maritime coast

A maritime coast licence is issued for stations that:

- are operated on land principally for transmitting messages to, and receiving messages from, maritime ship stations;
- may communicate with land mobile stations, remotely located land stations and stations on an aircraft that are not aircraft stations; and
- are operated on maritime frequencies.

Maritime coast licensing options

- Limited coast
 - Limited coast assigned system
 - Limited coast marine rescue
 - Limited coast non assigned

- Major coast A
- Major coast B.

Major coast A stations are operated on maritime frequencies to provide a range of radiocommunications, including weather broadcasts, navigation warnings and telephone calls with vessels at sea.

Major coast B stations, in addition to services allowed in major coast A, may be used to transmit or receive public correspondence to ships, land mobile stations, remotely located land stations and stations on an aircraft that are not aircraft stations.

Limited coast stations are used to provide a range of safety-related radiocommunication facilities to vessels for purposes including maritime search and rescue, maritime recreational activities, port operations, professional fishing and other commercial maritime activities.

Limited coast marine rescue stations are used to provide a comprehensive emergency radiocommunications service to all vessels.

Maritime ship

A maritime ship licence is issued for a station that:

- is operated on board a ship for communicating with
 - maritime coast stations; or
 - on-board communication stations associated with the maritime ship station, whether or not those stations are operated on board ships;
- may include equipment that is in a survival craft of the ship;
- may include a mobile earth station on board the ship;
- operates on maritime frequencies; and
- operates on maritime mobile-satellite frequencies or radiodetermination frequencies.

Maritime ship licensing options

- ship station class B assigned
- ship station class B non assigned
- ship station class C assigned
- ship station class C non assigned.

The operation of 27 MHz and VHF marine equipment is authorised under *the*

Radiocommunications (Maritime Ship Station 27 MHz and VHF) Class Licence 2001. Ship station class B licences are needed for marine MF/HF equipment. Ships subject to the *Navigation Act 1912* need ship station class C licences.

Outpost

An outpost licence is issued to authorise a station that operates in the MF or HF bands and is principally established:

- to provide radiocommunications in a remote locality at which a connection to a telecommunications network operated by a carrier or carriage service provider is not provided; or
- if a connection to a telecommunications network operated by a carrier or carriage service provider is provided at the remote locality where the station is situated—to provide radiocommunications in the locality for the purposes of an emergency that involves
 - prejudice to the security or defence of Australia; or
 - a serious threat to the environment; or
 - risk of injury to, or death of, persons; or
 - risk of damage to, or substantial loss of, property.

Outpost licensing options

- outpost assigned
- outpost non assigned.

The Royal Flying Doctor Service is the only organisation holding outpost assigned licences. Outpost non assigned licences authorise licensees to communicate with these assigned stations.

Public telecommunications service

A public telecommunications service (PTS) licence is issued for a service that consists of two or more land stations that are operated:

- by a person who holds a carrier licence; and
- for providing a public mobile telecommunications service.
- radio propagation path testing.

PTS licensing options

- PMTS class A
- PMTS class B.

Radiodetermination

A radiodetermination licence is issued for a station that uses the propagation properties of radio waves:

- to determine the position, velocity or other characteristics of an object; or
- to obtain information relating to those characteristics.

Use of radiodetermination frequencies by aircraft and maritime ship stations is authorised by the relevant aircraft and maritime ship licence. A separate radiodetermination licence is not required. This licence type is not appropriate for the demonstration or testing of equipment.

Scientific

A scientific licence is issued for a station that is established only for the purpose of:

- research into radiocommunications; or
- investigation of radiocommunications; or
- instruction in radiocommunications; or
- demonstration of equipment; or
- testing of equipment; or
- radio propagation path testing.

A scientific licence is appropriate where radiocommunications equipment is only used for a purpose listed above and cannot be more appropriately licensed for long-term operation by another licence type.

Scientific licensing options

- scientific assigned
- scientific non assigned.

Space

A space licence is issued to authorise operation of a transmitter on a satellite.

If a space licence authorises operation of a transmitter on a satellite, the operation of terrestrial receivers associated with the transmitter on the satellite are generally authorised by a class licence.

Space licensing options

- space
- space non-geostationary orbit (NGSO) satellite system operating in a frequency band above 8.5 GHz.

Space receive

A space receive licence is issued to authorise operation of a receiver on a satellite.

If a space receive licence authorises operation of a receiver on a satellite, the operation of terrestrial transmitters associated with the receiver on the satellite are generally authorised by a class licence.

Space receive licensing options

- space receive
- space receive non-geostationary orbit (NGSO) satellite system operating in a frequency band above 8.5 GHz.

Appendix C: Assigned licence tax formula

It is not necessary for licensees to use the tax formula to calculate their annual tax, as the ‘annual licence tax (\$ per kHz)’ tables in the divisions display the results of the formula for each licence type at every spectrum/geographic location, and include the normalisation factor. This means that licensees only need to refer to the tables in the applicable division, multiply the relevant figure by the bandwidth of their spectrum access (per kHz) and apply the low power discount if necessary.

However, an explanation of the licence tax formula is provided below in the interests of transparency.

The annual tax is calculated by multiplying the factors listed below:

X	Normalisation factor
	Bandwidth
	Power
	Location weighting
	Adjustment factor
= Annual tax	

Normalisation factor (0.2275)

The constant converts the relative spectrum values provided by the rest of the formula to an actual dollar figure. It is updated by CPI adjustments every year to keep licence taxes constant in real terms.

Bandwidth

Taxes also vary depending on the bandwidth within which a service is licensed to operate—see Appendix F for the applicable definition of bandwidth.

Power

The power factor allows a reduced tax for low power spectrum accesses, which deny spectrum to other users over a small area. Spectrum accesses that are not low power have a power factor of one.

Low power spectrum accesses permit the operation of one or more devices, each with a radiated power level of 8.3 watts EIRP or less, and designed for operation within a radius of two kilometres.¹ These types of services pay one-tenth of the annual tax that would otherwise apply (subject to the minimum tax of \$33.36).

¹ Local terrain clutter may reduce practicably achievable ranges to substantially less than a two kilometre radius. Frequency re-use distances applicable to low power spectrum accesses are such that ranges will ultimately be interference limited to a maximum of approximately two kilometres.

The low power factor does not apply to point to point, point to multipoint above 960 MHz, point to multipoint system, television outside broadcast, or licences that attract a fixed fee. For these licensing options, there is weak correlation between the power level and the area over which spectrum is denied to other users.

Location weighting

There are 55 spectrum and geographic location combinations, which have each been assigned a location weighting. The location combinations reflect the density of services and demand for spectrum at different frequencies and geographic areas. Higher taxes in locations of higher density and demand encourage efficient spectrum use. See maps (Appendix F) for precise area boundaries.

Spectrum location	Geographic location				
	Australia wide	High density	Medium density	Low density	Remote density
30 MHz and below	4.315	4.315	4.315	4.315	4.315
>30 to 70 MHz	9.747	3.807	2.025	0.437	0.218
>70 to 399.9 MHz	10	4.104	1.878	0.421	0.21
>399.9 to 960 MHz	10	5.6	2.562	0.437	0.218
>960 to 2,690 MHz	9.985	2.241	1.036	0.521	0.26
>2,690 to 5,000 MHz	9.974	1.853	0.751	0.622	0.311
>5.0 to 8.5 GHz	8.421	1.557	0.725	0.33	0.16
>8.5 to 14.5 GHz	3.711	1.336	0.316	0.023	0.011
>14.5 to 31.3 GHz	3.711	0.988	0.217	0.023	0.011
>31.3 to 51.4 GHz	1.012	0.539	0.117	0.004	0.002
Above 51.4 GHz	0.1	0.01	0.01	0.001	0.001

Adjustment factor

There are five adjustment factors that modify the tax levels of some licensing options. This introduces the flexibility to vary taxes according to parameters which are not included in the tax formula.

Division	Licensing Option	Frequency/Notes	Adjustment Factor
Division 1	most licensing options		1
Division 2	fixed point to point	below 960 MHz (Note 1)	18.4841
		above 960 MHz (Note 2)	0.4369
Division 3	fixed point to multipoint	below 960 MHz (Note 1)	73.9365
		above 960 MHz (Note 2)	0.4369
Division 4	licences in high demand frequency bands	(Note 3)	73.9365
Division 5	television outside broadcast station		0.5130

Note 1

Fixed services in bands below 960 MHz attract a lower tax than land mobile services in Division 4, even though they occupy the same bands, albeit in different segments. This is because the original adjustment factors were set in 1995 when demand for fixed segments was lower. However, segments allocated for fixed services have become so congested that some potential fixed licensees have not been able to gain access, and some have been prepared to pay the much higher land mobile rate for access to adjacent land mobile spectrum. This indicates that the opportunity cost of fixed channels is at least as high as the land mobile tax. The opportunity cost is the value of the best alternative use of the spectrum.

According to ACMA's pricing principles, spectrum should be priced at its opportunity cost. ACMA has therefore increased taxes for fixed point to point and point to multipoint licences below 960 MHz towards equivalence with land mobile taxes. It is anticipated that incremental increases will be implemented annually, until equivalence is achieved.

The licence type factor for point to point licences in bands below 960 MHz is lower than for point to multipoint licences as they involve relatively efficient use of spectrum by virtue of the directionality of their transmissions.

Note 2

The factor for fixed point to point above 960 is less than one, as these services involve relatively efficient use of spectrum. The licence type factor for point to multipoint licences above 960 MHz is the same.

Note 3

Taxes for services operating in high demand bands below 960 MHz have been given a high adjustment factor. These services are narrowband area service, point to multipoint system, point to multipoint (land mobile spectrum) and most land mobile licensing options.

Appendix D: Administrative charges

There are three kinds of administrative charges: issue, renewal and instalment charges. Charges apply per spectrum access (see page 4) for assigned licences, and per licence for non assigned licences.

Issue charge

For assigned licences, there is an issue charge for each spectrum access, which covers the direct costs incurred by ACMA in issuing the licence (the major cost of which is the frequency assignment task).

The issue charge is also payable when ACMA carries out the assessment for a spectrum access, but does not issue it. This may occur when there is no suitable frequency available at the site nominated by the applicant.

An accredited person (see page 5) may also perform the frequency assignment task and provide a client with a frequency assignment certificate. ACMA will then issue a licence. This incurs a smaller issue charge (see Division 9).

Most non assigned licences attract a standard issue charge. For some licence categories where the small number of licences issued makes it difficult to establish an appropriate standard charge, an hourly licensing rate of \$164.00 is applied (subject to a minimum charge of \$82.00).

Renewal charge

For assigned licences, a renewal charge of \$3.00 is payable for each spectrum access.

The renewal charge for non assigned licences is the same as the issue charge. The issue and renewal charges have been calculated by averaging the costs of issue and renewal over the expected life of a licence. If licensees take out a non assigned licence for more than a year, and pay the full fee (issue charge and annual tax amounts) upfront, the total fee is reduced by \$3.00 for each year more than one, to account for the reduced cost to ACMA (see Division 8 for details).

For non assigned licences, if a renewal request is not received by 60 days after the expiry of the old licence, the frequency assignment and call sign become available for assignment to other services. Renewal of the licence after this time depends on whether the frequency is still available. A new issue charge will be payable.

Instalment charge

Where a licence is taken out for more than a year, a licensee can choose to pay the tax by annual instalment. Instalments for assigned licences will incur a charge of \$3.00 per chargeable spectrum access; for non assigned licences, the instalment charge is the same as the issue and renewal charges.

If payment is not received by the instalment date, the licensee will become liable for penalty interest on the unpaid tax amount. If payment is not received within 60 days of the instalment date, the licensee loses the right to pay by instalments, and will become liable to pay all remaining instalments plus the penalty interest.

A multi-year licence holder can elect to pay the full licence fee upfront. If the licensee initially elects to pay by instalment, but later chooses to pay the balance owing for the remaining licence period as a lump sum, he or she will be exempt from any further instalment charges.

Appendix E: Exemptions, concessions and refunds

Exemptions

Provision for exemptions is made under regulation 5 of the *Radiocommunications Taxes Collection Regulations* and under the *Radiocommunications (Charges) Determination 2007*.

Licence fee exemptions provide relief from the payment of the annual licence tax and administrative charges to licensees who fulfil the prescribed requirements. Licence fee exemptions apply to:

- diplomatic and consular missions; or
- bodies, the principal purpose of which is to provide surf life saving and remote area ambulance services; or
- bodies, the principal purpose of which is to provide emergency services or services for the safe-guarding of human life—including rural fire fighting, search and rescue and coast guard services—where the body is staffed principally by volunteers and is exempt from paying income tax.

More information about these requirements are on the ACMA website at www.acma.gov.au (go to ACMA > Licensing & regulation > Radcomms licensing > Apparatus Licensing > apparatus licensing overview > Licence fee exemptions & concessions).

Concessions

Provision for concessions is made under the *Radiocommunications (Transmitter Licence Tax) Determination 2003 (No.2)*.

Licence fee concessions apply only to:

- the Royal Flying Doctor Service; and
- the narrowcasting service licensing option of the broadcasting licence type, where the person proposes to operate the station solely to provide open narrowcasting television services for community and educational non-profit purposes.

The amount charged for licences fulfilling one of these criteria is 28.5 per cent of the annual licence tax.

Applying for an exemption or concession

A client is required to attach a completed application for licence fee exemption or concession form to each licence application, as the exemption does not apply to the client but to individual licences. Forms can be downloaded from the ACMA website at www.acma.gov.au (go to ACMA > Forms & online systems > radiofrequency spectrum forms).

If the request for exemption or concession covers a number of licences at the same time, then it is not necessary to submit separate requests for each licence. One form can cover multiple licences in the one application. ACMA will assess each licence to confirm that it accords with the requirements for exemption or concession.

On licence renewal, the exemption or concession will continue so long as the licensee provides written confirmation that their circumstances have not changed.

Refunds on surrender of licence

When a licensee surrenders a licence before the expiry date, they may be entitled to a pro-rata refund of the tax paid for the licence. However, refunds of less than \$30 are not payable.

$$\text{Refundable Amount} = \frac{\text{Licence tax paid} \times \text{no. of days remaining until expiry}}{\text{Licence term (days)}}$$

Refunds may be payable on cancellation in certain circumstances.

Appendix F: Bandwidth definition and maps

Applicable definition of bandwidth

Consistent with ACMA pricing principles for licence fees (see page 5), the word ‘bandwidth’ used in the transmitter or receiver licence tax determination is interpreted so that spectrum is priced on the amount of bandwidth denied to other services. As a guide:

- where only one channel spacing is specified by a relevant frequency band plan or by relevant administrative arrangements (**Note 1**), the greater (**Note 2**) of:
 - that channel spacing; or
 - the necessary bandwidth (**Note 3**) of the emission.
- where two or more channel spacings (e.g. a maximum channel spacing and subdivisions of it) are specified by a relevant frequency band plan or by relevant administrative arrangements (**Note 1**):
 - in the case of the necessary bandwidth of the emission not exceeding the maximum specified channel spacing, the smallest specified channel spacing that is greater than, or equal to, that necessary bandwidth; or
 - in any other case, the necessary bandwidth of the emission.

For example: if a relevant frequency band plan or administrative arrangement specified a channel spacing of 28 MHz, 14 MHz or 7 MHz, and the necessary bandwidth of the emission was 10 MHz, the channel bandwidth of the emission would be 14 MHz. If instead, the necessary bandwidth was 30 MHz, that is, exceeding the maximum channel spacing, the channel bandwidth would be 30 MHz.
- where no such relevant frequency band plan or administrative arrangements exist:
 - in the case of equipment designed or intended for operation on one or more channel spacings, the smallest channel spacing that is greater than, or equal to, the necessary bandwidth of the emission; or
 - in any other case, the necessary bandwidth of the emission.

Note 1: That is, ‘relevant’ in the sense that the plan or arrangements are applicable to the original assignment of the frequency authorised by the licence. Where a transition period is allowed for the introduction of a new frequency band plan, the old band plan may apply to the original assignment of the frequency which the licence authorises. (A frequency band plan may be prepared by ACMA under section 32 of the *Radiocommunications Act 1992*.)

Note 2: Use of necessary bandwidth greater than the channel spacing specified in the relevant frequency band plan would generally not be allowed. However, it may be allowed by section 104 of the *Radiocommunications Act 1992* in limited situations.

Note 3: The term ‘necessary bandwidth’ (referred to in the above definition) is defined in accordance with Article s1.152 of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Radio Regulations as follows:

Necessary Bandwidth: for a given class of emission, the width of the frequency band which is just sufficient to ensure the transmission of information at the rate and with the quality required under specified conditions.

Geographic area maps

The groupings for geographic locations areas follow. The following pages show maps and coordinates for each area.

High density

[Sydney/Wollongong](#)

[Melbourne/Geelong](#)

[Brisbane/Gold Coast](#)

Medium density

[Perth](#)

[Adelaide](#)

[Newcastle](#)

Low density

[East Australia low density area](#)

[Western Australia low density area](#)

[Tasmania low density area](#)

[Darwin low density area](#)

Remote density

Elsewhere

Australia-wide

An assigned apparatus licence authorising Australia-wide operation:

- authorises operation on a transitory basis at any place in Australia, but normally only authorises operation in an external territory of Australia where frequency coordination is undertaken for that territory;
- does not normally authorise exclusive use of a frequency
 - frequencies assigned for Australia-wide use are normally assigned on a shared basis with other licensees because of the shortage of available spectrum;
- only authorises the operation of one station, system or service
 - under present licensing arrangements, each separate station, system or service will require a separate licence (for example, an Australia-wide land mobile licence authorising a land mobile system would not authorise simultaneous operation in Adelaide and Perth, as this would constitute two separate land mobile systems, with the licence for each system attracting the relevant tax for a medium density geographic area);
 - in the case of a system of hand-held equipment authorised by a Land Mobile (Ambulatory System) Licence, operations between groups of units at multiple locations throughout Australia is permitted;
- generally requires that operation is on a 'no interference, no protection' basis
 - this condition is normally specified on an Australia-wide licence, given that Australia-wide frequency coordination is likely to be impracticable;
- requires frequency coordination of stations for each operational location, where it authorises the operation of land stations (including those for land mobile systems),
 - for other than short-term use, it is necessary to undertake frequency coordination at each operational location to minimise interference to radiocommunications; and
- does not guarantee that the licensee will be able to operate at any site in particular.

Appendix G: Contact information

For licensing queries, contact ACMA:

Telephone: 1300 850 115

Website: www.acma.gov.au

Email: aas@acma.gov.au

Mail: **Canberra Office**
PO Box 78, Belconnen ACT 2616

Melbourne Office
PO Box 13112 Law Courts, Melbourne VIC 8010

Sydney Office
PO Box Q500, Queen Victoria Building NSW 1230