

Rwanda

## Ministerial Order determining Radio Communications License Fees

### Ministerial Order 1 of 2022

Legislation as at 23 May 2022

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# Ministerial Order determining Radio Communications License Fees

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# Rwanda

## Ministerial Order determining Radio Communications License Fees

### Ministerial Order 1 of 2022

Published in Official Gazette 21 on 23 May 2022

**Assented to on 20 May 2022**

**Commenced on 23 May 2022**

*[This is the version of this document from 23 May 2022.]*

#### **The Minister of Information, Communication, Technology and Innovation;**

Pursuant to the Constitution of the Republic of Rwanda of 2003 revised in 2015, especially in Articles 121, 122 and 176;

Pursuant to Law n° 24/2016 of 18/06/2016 governing Information and Communication Technologies, especially in Article 20;

Having reviewed Ministerial Decree n° 03/RURA/2005 of 14/07/2005 determining fees for radio communications licenses;

After consideration and approval by the Cabinet, in its meeting of 19/02/2021;

#### **ORDERS:**

### **Chapter One**

#### **General provisions**

#### **Article One – Purpose of this order**

This Order determines payable fees by a holder of radio communications license in order to promote economic growth and effective management of frequency spectrum in Rwanda.

#### **Article 2 – Definitions**

In this Order, the following terms are defined as follows:

- 1° **mobile service:** radio communication service between mobile and land stations or between mobile stations;
- 2° **mobile station:** station in the mobile service intended to be used while in motion or during halts at unspecified points;
- 3° **fixed station:** a station in a fixed service;
- 4° **occupied bandwidth:** the width of a frequency band such that, below the lower and above the upper frequency limits, the mean powers emitted are each equal to a specified percentage  $\# / 2$  of the total mean power of a given emission;  
  
Unless otherwise specified in an ITU-R Recommendation for the appropriate class of emission, the value of  $\# / 2$  should be taken as 0.5%;
- 5° **Regulatory Authority:** national organ in charge of regulation of certain public utilities.

## **Chapter II License fees**

### **Article 3 – Payable fees**

A holder of a radio communication license pays the following fees:

- 1° fee for evaluation of the application of a license;
- 2° annual fee related to the use of radio frequency channel.

### **Article 4 – Licence and renewal application fees**

Fees for evaluation of an application file for radio communication license are paid once.

License renewal is free of charge. However, in the event of modification in the value of the license, the initial application fee is only paid for the new stations and new frequencies.

If the assessment of the application of license renewal implies more fees than the initial application fee, the Regulatory Authority requests the applicant to pay additional fee.

### **Article 5 – Time to pay annual license fee**

The annual license fee is paid not later than 20<sup>th</sup> December of each year. The Regulatory Authority sends invoices to a licensee before November 15<sup>th</sup> of each year.

If the validity of a licence commences during the course of a year, the annual fee is calculated in proportion to the remaining months of the year. The minimum duration of a license is two (2) months.

The annual fee, for applicants of a short time license, is calculated based on the duration of the license.

### **Article 6 – Recipient of fees**

Fees provided by this Order are paid to the Regulatory Authority.

### **Article 7 – Exempted frequency bands**

The following frequency bands are exempted from payment of the application and annual fees:

- 1° frequency bands used by the Army in its dedicated frequency bands;
- 2° frequency bands determined by the Regulatory Authority by means of special regulations.

Frequency bands that the Regulatory Board decides to assign via public auction is exempted from application fees.

### **Article 8 – Radio communication license of less than one year**

Granting of a radio communication license for a period of less than one year is subject to the prior payment of non refundable application fee. When the license is granted, the license fee is calculated on the basis of the license duration.

The minimum fee payable is equivalent to two (2) months.

### **Article 9 – Causes of termination of a radio communication license validity**

The validity of a radio communication license may be terminated upon one of the following reasons:

- 1° the will of the license holder;
- 2° upon decision by the Regulatory Board, in case of violation of conditions provided for in the license.

### **Article 10 – Reductions of fees and determining factors**

The following factors constitute the basis for reduction of fees for radio communication licenses:

- 1° eighty per cent (80%) reduction on fees listed in the Annex of this Order is granted to only radio communication systems exclusively used for the general interest services operating on the territory of the Republic of Rwanda;
- 2° location and coverage factors referred to in tables of the Annex to this Order.

### **Article 11 – Low power and low range applications**

Based on the national table of frequency allocations, regulations and guidelines into force, the Regulatory Authority determines frequency bands which are dedicated to low-power and low-range applications exempted from licences applications and payment of related fees.

Applications referred to in Paragraph One of this Article include the use of low-power devices such as remote control, cordless phones, wireless local area computer networks and other devices used for home use such as heating or cooling houses as the Regulatory Authority may approve it.

Equipment duly authorised in Rwanda operating in the specifically allocated frequency bands can be used for applications referred to in Paragraph One of this Article.

## **Chapter III Final provisions**

### **Article 12 – Repealing of order**

Ministerial Decree n° 03/RURA/2005 of 14/07/2005 determining fees for radio communications licenses is repealed.

### **Article 13 – Commencement**

This Order comes into force on the date of its publication in the Official *Gazette* of the Republic of Rwanda.

## **Annex**

### **Schedule of radio communications fees**

*Note: The mention of a radio communications service in this Schedule does not guarantee that such service is available or authorised. Inquiries should be addressed to the Regulatory Authority.*

Category 1: Mobile services	Licence application fees	Annual license fee
<b>1.1. Land mobile services (independent networks)</b>		
<b>Base station or relay station for land mobile service</b>  <div> Commercial networks (paging, trunking, GSM, etc.): see category 6   Low-range networks: see category 5 </div>	<b>Per each base or relay station and per each assigned channel</b>  <i>Whatever the number of mobile stations</i>  <b>FRW 100,000</b>  <b>See Note 1</b>	<b>See Note 2 and 3</b>  <b>Per each assigned channel:</b>  <i>Whatever the number of mobile stations</i>  <b>Mobile private networks include non commercial trunking</b>  FRW 300,000 per channel  FRW 100,000 per base or relay station  <b>Mobile stations only networks (without any base station or relay)</b>  FRW 300,000 per channel  <b>Private paging networks</b>  per base or relay station FRW 150,000
<b>1.2. Aeronautical mobile services</b>		
<b>Aeronautical station</b>  for air traffic control or for services to airlines or aero clubs	<b>Lump sum for all communications channels:</b>  Per station: FRW 50,000	<b>Lump sum for all communications channels:</b>  Per station: FRW 200,000
<b>Radionavigation or radar Radiodetection station</b>	<b>Lump sum for all communications channels:</b>  Per station: FRW 50,000	<b>Lump sum for all communications channels:</b>  Per station: FRW 200,000
<b>Aircraft station</b>  registered in Rwanda	<b>Lump sum for all communications channels:</b>  Per station: FRW 50,000	<b>Lump sum for all communications channels:</b>  Per station: FRW 200,000

Category 2: Fixed services	Licence application fees	Annual license fee													
Fixed stations  See Note 4	Per station, whatever the number of channels: FRW 50,000  Additional fee for International coordination: FRW 75,000	<b>For MF — HF frequency bands (0.3 — 30 MHz):</b>  Transmitter output power < 1 kW: FRW 250,000  Transmitter output power > 1 kW: FRW 350,000													
<b>Point-to-point</b>  <b>See Note 9</b>	Per station, whatever the number of channels: FRW 50,000  Additional fee for International coordination: FRW 75,000  <table><tr><th>Location factor</th></tr><tr><td>LF<sup>1</sup> Urban = 1.0  LF<sup>2</sup> Semi Urban = 0.5  LF<sup>3</sup> Rural = 0.4  LF<sup>4</sup> Remote = 0.1</td></tr></table>	Location factor	LF <sup>1</sup> Urban = 1.0  LF <sup>2</sup> Semi Urban = 0.5  LF <sup>3</sup> Rural = 0.4  LF <sup>4</sup> Remote = 0.1	<b>Formula:</b>											
		Location factor													
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		<b>FF = {(RF * Band Fee) + Σ (N * link Fee * Location Factor)}</b>													
		<table><tr><th>Band</th><th>Band fee</th><th>Link fee</th></tr><tr><td>≤ 8 000 MHz</td><td>FRW 250,000</td><td>FRW 125,000</td></tr><tr><td>8000 MHz &lt;Band≤15 000 MHz</td><td>FRW 160,000</td><td>FRW 60,000</td></tr><tr><td>15 000 MHz&lt;Band≤18 000 MHz</td><td>FRW 120,000</td><td>FRW 60,000</td></tr><tr><td>Above 18 000 MHz</td><td>FRW 120,000</td><td>FRW 40,000</td></tr></table>	Band	Band fee	Link fee	≤ 8 000 MHz	FRW 250,000	FRW 125,000	8000 MHz <Band≤15 000 MHz	FRW 160,000	FRW 60,000	15 000 MHz<Band≤18 000 MHz	FRW 120,000	FRW 60,000	Above 18 000 MHz
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15 000 MHz<Band≤18 000 MHz	FRW 120,000	FRW 60,000													
Above 18 000 MHz	FRW 120,000	FRW 40,000													
N: is the number of transmitters using the assigned frequency channel  FF: Frequency fee  RF: Radio Frequency															
<b>Studio to transmitter link</b>	Per station, whatever the number of channels: FRW 50,000	<b>FF = {(RF * Spectrum Fee) + Σ (N * Equipment Fee * Location Factor)}</b>													

	Additional fee for International coordination: FRW 75,000	<b>Location factor</b>	<b>Equipment fee</b>	<b>spectrum fee</b>
		urban =1	FRW 150,000	FRW 150,000
		semi urban=0.5		
		Remote=0.4		
		Very remote=0.1		



Category 3: Broadcasting	Licence application fees	Annual license fee	
Private sound broadcasting station	Per station, whatever the number of channels: FRW 50,000	Location	Location factor
		Kigali	1
		Provinces	0.5
		Power (ERP)	Coverage factor
		$P \leq 100$ W	1
		$100 < P < 500$	3
		$500 W \leq P \leq 1000$	4
		$1000 < P < 2000$	6
		2000 and above	8
		AM channel fee	FRW 2,000,000
		FM channel fee	FRW 500,000
		Formula: $FF = (N * \text{Location Factor} * \text{Coverage Factor} * \text{Channel fee})$  Where:  N: is the number of frequency channels	
Television broadcasting services	Per station, whatever the number of channels: FRW 100,000	Formula: $FF = \sum (N * \text{Location Factor} * \text{Channel fee})$	
		N: is the number of frequency channels	

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<b>Category 4: Amateur service</b>	<b>Licence application fees</b>	<b>Annual license fee</b>
Fixed, mobile or relay station	Per station: FRW 10,000	Per station: FRW 100,000

<b>Category 5: Short range applications</b>	<b>Licence application fees</b>	<b>Annual license fee</b>
<b>Low power devices *</b>	<b>Exempted</b>	

Category 6: Commercial services	Licence application fees	Annual license fee																	
Paging	Per base station and per assigned channel: FRW 50,000	Per base station: FRW 10,000  Per assigned channel: FRW 250,000																	
Trunking networks	Per base station and per assigned channel: FRW 50,000	Per base station: FRW 10,000  Per assigned channel: FRW 1,000,000																	
Mobile service  See Note 5, 6 and 9	Per network: FRW 1,000,000	<div>5.1. Cellular</div> <div><div>FF = (RF * Band Unit Fee) + Σ (N * Transmitter Unit Fee *Location Factor)</div><div><div>Location factor</div><table><tr><td>Urban</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>semi urban</td><td>0.5</td></tr><tr><td>remote</td><td>0.4</td></tr><tr><td>very remote</td><td>0.1</td></tr></table></div><div><table><tr><td>Band</td><td>Band unit fee</td><td>transmitter unit fee</td></tr><tr><td>Band 900</td><td>FRW 9,020,369.00</td><td>FRW 7,061</td></tr><tr><td>Band 1800</td><td>FRW 9,020,369.00</td><td>FRW 7,061</td></tr></table></div></div>	Urban	1	semi urban	0.5	remote	0.4	very remote	0.1	Band	Band unit fee	transmitter unit fee	Band 900	FRW 9,020,369.00	FRW 7,061	Band 1800	FRW 9,020,369.00	FRW 7,061
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		<div>5.2. <b>IMT services</b></div> <div><div><math display="block">FF = (RF * \text{Band Unit Fee}) + \sum (N * \text{Transmitter Unit Fee} * \text{Location Factor})</math></div><table><tr><th>Band</th><th>Band unit fee</th><th>transmitter unit fee</th></tr><tr><td>all bands</td><td>FRW 9,020,369.00</td><td>FRW 7,061</td></tr></table><div>N.B: Location factor same as for Cellular</div></div> <div>5.3 <b>TV white spaces(add table)</b></div> <div><div><math display="block">FF = \sum (N * \text{Band Unit Fee} * \text{Location Factor})</math></div><table><tr><td>Band Unit fee:</td><td>FRW 500,000</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2"><b>Location factor</b></td></tr><tr><td>Urban</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>semi urban</td><td>0.5</td></tr><tr><td>remote</td><td>0.4</td></tr><tr><td>very remote</td><td>0.1</td></tr></table></div>	Band	Band unit fee	transmitter unit fee	all bands	FRW 9,020,369.00	FRW 7,061	Band Unit fee:	FRW 500,000	<b>Location factor</b>		Urban	1	semi urban	0.5	remote	0.4	very remote	0.1
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Urban	1																			
semi urban	0.5																			
remote	0.4																			
very remote	0.1																			
<b>Terrestrial fixed links</b>	Per station, whatever the number of channels:  FRW 50,000	<b>Same rate as Category 2</b>																		

<b>Satellite services</b>	Defined in the Satellites Regulations frequency
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### Notes

- For planning purposes, the Regulatory Authority may limit either the emitted power or the antenna height, or both.
- If a network uses several channels, the amount due for a given base or relay station is the indicated amount multiplied by the number of channels transmitted by this station. For networks without fixed stations, the indicated amount is multiplied by the number of used channels.
- For duplex channels, the due amount for a given channel is the indicated amount multiplied by two (the number of centre frequencies in each channel).
- By definition, fixed service networks include only fixed stations.
- When frequency bands are segmented in channels, the occupied bandwidth is equal to the difference between the reference frequencies of two adjacent channels. Bandwidths are rounded to the upper number of units (1 unit = 1MHz”).
- The Low Power Devices specifications and category will be determined by the Regulatory Board.
- The number of assigned MHz is computed by adding the two bands (transmit mobile to fixed + transmit fixed to mobile). It is rounded to the upper tenth of MHz.
- The definition criteria for discounts**
  - Urban - Kigali metropolitan;
  - Semi urban as defined by the Ministry in charge of infrastructure (Rwanda Urban Development Program i.e. Rusizi, Rubavu, Nyagatare, Musanze, Muhanga and Huye;
  - Other settled areas in rural or remote location and along road networks connecting cities;
  - Very remote areas such as national parks, forests of the national electric grid.
- Band unit fee for Cellular and IMT services**  
The band unit fee for cellular and IMT services must increase gradually over a 4 years period starting from the year of signature as follows:

Year	Band unit fee for 2G/3G and IMT
1	FRW 4,329,777
2	FRW 6,765,277
3	FRW 8,818,332
4	FRW 9,020,369