



## Reminder:

Annual minimum fees for 2016 are due on Monday, February 1, 2016. If you are a webcaster or business establishment service, and haven't already done so, why not do it *today*? Please log into [SoundExchange Licensee Direct](#) and confirm, certify and (yes) electronically *pay* for your 2016 minimum fee *online*! Webcasters can pay their 2016 minimum fee online starting today: Wednesday, December 23. (Some users may need to visit the "Update your users" section to renew their profile and/or permissions before having full 2016 access. If you need further assistance, please contact the admin user for your service or email [Licensee Relations](#).)

## 2016–2020 Webcasting Rates

The Copyright Royalty Board [announced](#) on December 16 the 2016–2020 rates and terms for Commercial Webcasters, Broadcasters, and Noncommercial Webcasters. The annual minimum fees for these three categories generally remain the same as in previous years: \$500 per station/channel, with commercial services having a \$50,000 cap on their annual minimum fee. As in the past, the annual minimum fee will be credited toward the services' additional royalty fees.

For services that exceed the usage covered by the minimum fee, the services will pay for the additional usage at the following per-performance rates: in 2016, nonsubscription Commercial Webcasters and Broadcasters will pay **\$0.0017 per performance**, and subscription Commercial Webcasters and Broadcasters will pay **\$0.0022 per performance**. Noncommercial Webcasters will only make additional payments (at a rate of **\$0.0017 per performance**) beyond their annual minimum fee if they exceed a monthly threshold of 159,140 aggregate tuning hours (ATH). (This threshold is the same as in previous years.) The rates for each subsequent year will be based on the previous year's rates and will be adjusted upward or downward according to the Consumer Price Index for each year.

Also going into effect on January 1, 2016 are the 2016–2020 rates and terms for Noncommercial Educational Webcasters and public radio stations, which resulted from settlements that SoundExchange reached with College Broadcasters, Inc. and NPR/Corporation for Public Broadcasting, respectively. As in previous years, Noncommercial Educational Webcasters will pay a \$500 annual minimum fee per station/channel, which covers up to 159,140 ATH each month. If a Noncommercial Educational Webcaster exceeds that threshold, it will pay for the additional performances at the same rate of \$0.0017 that applies to Noncommercial Webcasters. Noncommercial Educational Webcasters will remain eligible for the reporting waiver if they pay the additional \$100 reporting waiver fee and limit their usage to 80,000 ATH per month (a threshold that has increased from 55,000 ATH per month in previous years). For public radio stations, their royalties are covered by a flat fee paid on their behalf by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

For more information, please visit our [Services information page](#) or log into [SoundExchange Licensee Direct](#).

## Announcement - ROU Augmentation:

International Standard Recording Codes (ISRCs) are the "gold standard" of metadata when it comes to identifying sound recordings. SoundExchange is pleased to announce that our Reports of Use (ROU) Augmentation process for licensees is **now live**. Services logging into [SoundExchange Licensee Direct](#) are able to access their submitted ROUs that we have augmented (where possible) with ISRCs, populated from our vast repertoire database. We encourage services to download these augmented files and populate your own databases with matched ISRCs, so that your future submissions can include them. This improves the efficiency for the entire royalty distribution process, for both SoundExchange *and* you. Please visit [SoundExchange Licensee Direct](#) today to see how much of your submitted ROUs now contain ISRCs.

## Geofencing and the 150 Mile Rule:

Occasionally SoundExchange receives questions about a technique known as "geofencing." Geofencing technology is intended to make internet transmissions inaccessible to users outside a certain geographic area. One reason we are asked about this technology is that the Copyright Act includes an exemption for certain digital retransmissions of radio broadcasts over cable systems when those retransmissions are limited to audiences within a 150-mile radius of the radio transmitter making the initial transmission. Broadcasters who also webcast are sometimes under the mistaken belief that if they geofence their internet transmissions (to within a 150 mile radius), they do not have to pay royalties.

However, the United States Copyright Office (the agency that interprets and applies the Copyright Act) has [ruled](#) that this exemption **does not apply to transmissions made over the internet**. Therefore, any radio station webcasts must still be paid for via the statutory licenses SoundExchange administers or through direct licenses. For more information, please refer to our [FAQ](#) on this issue.

## Check us out on the road:

[College Media Association Spring National College Media Convention 2016](#)  
March 12–15, 2016 | New York, NY

## Remaining due dates for most services through March 31, 2016\*:

Thursday, January 14: November 2015 royalties and ROUs

Monday, February 1: 2016 minimum fees

Monday, February 15: December 2015 royalties and ROUs (and 2015 Q4 ROUs for many noncommercial webcasters)

Wednesday, March 16: January 2016 royalties and ROUs

\*Not all services are required to submit monthly royalties and Reports of Use. Please [review your license category information](#) and/or [contact our Licensee Relations team](#) with any questions.