Licence to play (publicly perform) background music in establishments (retail stores, eating/drinking establishments, etc.)

Quick Facts

Licence period:
one year (Jan. to Dec.)

Annual fee:
$1.23 per square metre
or 11.46¢ per square foot
($94.51 min. fee)

Deadline:
Jan. 31 of the licensed year
(music licence form and payment)

Music Licence Form:
socan.ca/form/15A

Licence fee calculation

EXAMPLE 1:
Company ABC operates a 100 square metre store and uses CDs to play background music for its customers three times a week, twelve months a year.
Fee: 100 × $1.23 = $123. Company ABC’s licence for the year is $123 + taxes

EXAMPLE 2:
BigJoe is an 800 square foot restaurant and uses MP3s to play background music.
Fee: 800 × $0.1146 = $91.68. BigJoe’s licence for the year is $94.51 (min. fee) + taxes.

Seasonal businesses: businesses operating less than six month per year are considered seasonal for the purpose of Tariff 15A and will pay the half rate; however, the $94.51 annual minimum fee still applies. Businesses operating six months or more are required to pay the full year’s licence fee.

If the music used is provided by a music supplier, you may not need a SOCAN licence for that use. Please contact us to ensure you are covered.

Calculate your licence: socan.ca/calculator/15A

Other tariffs that may apply:

15B (music on hold over the phone)
3A (live music, such as bands etc.)
18 (dance floor or similar setting)
8 (single event with or without dancing)

For information purposes only. For the complete text of the tariff, please consult the Canada Gazette, available on our website at socan.ca/licensees/music-use or visit the Copyright Board of Canada’s website at www.cb-cda.gc.ca.