Licence for background music suppliers to communicate music to their subscribers via telecommunication, by any means other than permanent downloads, or authorize their subscribers to play (publicly perform) background music, including telephone music on hold.

Quick Facts

Licence period:
quarterly (Jan. to Mar., Apr. to Jun., Jul. to Sep., Oct. to Dec.)

Quarterly Fee:
- for communication to subscribers: 2.25% of revenues, min. fee of $1.50 per premises per quarter
- for authorizing public performances: 7.5% of revenues, min. fee of $5 per premises per quarter

Deadline:
no later than 60 days after the end of each quarter (music licence form and payment)

Music Licence Form:
socan.ca/form/16

Licence fee calculation

Quarterly fees:
1) a supplier who communicates a copyrighted work via telecommunication during a quarter pays 2.25% of revenues from subscribers who received such a communication during the quarter, subject to a min. fee of $1.50 per relevant premises; and

2) a supplier who authorizes a subscriber to perform in public a work during a quarter pays 7.5% of revenues from subscribers so authorized during the quarter, subject to a min. fee of $5 per relevant premises.

Background music suppliers can be subject to one or both of the above fees, depending on the nature of the service they provide.

NOTES:

(1) A background music supplier who only offers telephone music on hold is subject to the communication fee.

(2) A communication fee is applicable when a service communicates copyrighted works via telecommunication to the public. Methods of telecommunications include, but are not limited to, satellite, internet and over the air transmission.

(3) A report showing all of the music supplier’s subscribers, the amounts paid by the subscribers and their location information is required for the fee calculation.

(4) Any other uses of the music provided by music suppliers that is not background music may be subject to additional tariffs.