

## **Resolution of Schedule of Fees for 2009**

as approved by the TRA Board on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2008

**Issued by the  
Telecommunication Regulatory Authority**

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Approved by the General Director of the TRA

Alan Horne

Date:

## **1 Definitions**

1. Unless the context requires otherwise, terms and expressions used in this policy shall have the same meaning as that prescribed to them in Decree No. 48 of 2002 (the "Telecommunications Law").

## **2 Introduction**

2. The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) is the public authority established under Decree No. 48 promulgating the Telecommunications Law, as the regulator for the telecommunications sector in Bahrain. According to Article 18 the Law, the operations and activities of TRA shall be funded from the following sources:
  - Application, initial and renewal fees charged for licences;
  - A percentage (not to exceed 1%) of gross annual turnover of licensed operators;
  - Fees charged by TRA for any services it provides; and
  - Fines collected by TRA.
3. Article 3(c)(1), (6) and (18) of the Law provides TRA with power to, amongst other things, set and collect application, initial, annual and renewal fees for Licences, collect fines and fees under any Licence and, where appropriate collect any fees for services provided by the Authority.
4. Article 38(c) of the Law allows TRA to prescribe a fee for type approval processes by means of resolution.
5. On 16 November 2008 the General Director recommended, and the TRA Board approved, to issue this resolution on the schedule of fees and for the fees to take effect as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009.
6. This document sets out the fees from which TRA will derive its income as foreseen in the Telecommunications Law.

### 3 Key principles

7. The following are the key principles applied in establishing the schedule of fees.
8. In addition to the annual turn-over based fee, TRA shall raise income from the services which it provides, including:
  - Service licensing
  - Radio Spectrum licensing
  - Assignment of numbers
  - Assignment of domain names
  - Processing applications for equipment approval
  - Activities of the Telecommunications Technical Office
9. TRA shall embark on a tariff rebalancing process which reduces the level of the annual turn-over based fee levied by TRA on licensed operators by increasing the revenues received from the above services.
10. TRA's revenues shall recover the total cost of providing the services ancillary to its regulatory function on an annual basis, including future investments for the development of TRA.
11. Auctions conducted by TRA shall not be considered as revenues for cost recovery as they are not a regular occurrence and any revenue in excess of costs will be passed on to the public treasury.
12. Fees charged for access to scarce resources shall be proportional to the amount of scarce resource consumed, or denied to other users.
13. Revenues from the use of scarce resources shall be set at a level which encourages efficient use of the resource;
  - Revenues from radio spectrum used for commercial applications shall reflect its socio-economic or market value where such spectrum can be shown to be congested or scarce;
  - Radio spectrum licensees shall pay for the full bandwidth of spectrum assigned to them; and

- Where appropriate and justified, spectrum fees shall be set at levels which assist in the realisation of socio-economic objectives.

## 4 Schedule of Fees

### 4.1 Service licence application fees

14. Once introduced, the application fee for a unified individual licence or unified class licence shall be BD2,000.
15. This fee shall be paid at the time of application and shall be non-refundable in the event that the application is not successful.

### 4.2 Spectrum licensing fees

16. The annual spectrum licensing fee for non-temporary assignments shall be calculated by multiplying the relevant entry from the table below by the required bandwidth (in MHz):

Power/coverage Frequency Band	Spectrum Charge, BD per MHz					
	Nationwide	≥ 25W e.r.p	≥1 W and < 25W	≤ 1W	Fixed P-P	Earth Stn and VSAT
VLf/LF/MF (3kHz – 3MHz)	4338	3904	2169	1085	434	434
HF (3 – 30MHz)	6507	5857	3254	1627	651	651
VHF (30 – 300MHz)	4338	3904	2169	1085	434	434
UHF1 (300 – 470MHz)	3254	2928	1627	813	325	325
UHF2 (470 – 2700MHz)	6507	5857	3254	1627	651	651
SHF (2.7 – 10 GHz)	1085	976	542	271	108	108
SHF/EHF (10 – 55 GHz)	434	390	217	108	43	43
EHF (55 – 275GHz)	Fixed fee of BD1,000 per fixed link, independent of bandwidth.					

17. The resultant fee is payable annually in advance (will be pro-rata if licence is awarded or terminated part way through a year) and is subject to a minimum fee of BD40.
18. The table below illustrates a number of example annual fees:

<b>Spectrum licence</b>	<b>Fee, BD</b>
PMR 450MHz (25kHz bandwidth, 25W e.r.p)	73
PMR 450MHz (25kHz bandwidth, 1W e.r.p)	41
Fixed link 7GHz (28MHz bandwidth)	3,037
Fixed link 14GHz (28MHz bandwidth)	1,215

19. Licences to use the radio spectrum on a temporary basis shall be valid for 1 month from the date of issue. Fees payable for temporary frequency licenses shall be calculated according to the following table:

<b>Bandwidth</b>	<b>Charge</b>
0 – 1 MHz	BD20 per assignment
> 1MHz	BD20 per MHz per assignment

20. The annual fee for call signs or station licenses and amateur radio licenses shall be (these fees are not available on a pro-rata basis):

<b>Station/Call Sign</b>	<b>Charge</b>
Marine ship-station – private	BD10
Marine ship-station – commercial	BD100
Aircraft call-sign – private or commercial	BD100
Coast-station	BD40
Amateur	BD10

#### **4.3 Fees for assignment of numbers**

21. The fee per 8 digit number is BD0.100 per annum.
22. The fee will be increased by a factor of 10 for each one digit reduction in length of the number. Hence, for a 4 digit short code the fee is BD1,000 per annum.

#### **4.4 Fees for assignment of domain names**

23. Domain names are subject to a once only activation fee of BD15 each and a registration fee of BD36 per year each.

#### **4.5 Equipment approval fees**

24. The application fee for the approval of telecommunications equipment with a radiocommunications interface which is used

to establish a licensed telecommunications network is BD250. This fee is payable at the time of application and is non-refundable in the event that the application is not successful.

25. The application fee for the approval of other forms of telecommunications equipment is BD50. This fee is payable at the time of application and is non-refundable in the event that the application is not successful.
26. Equipment approvals are valid for 3 years from the date of issue. The fee for the renewal of an equipment approval is the same as the original application fee.

#### 4.6 Fees for services of the TTO

27. The following fees are payable for the services of the T.T.O:

Type of Consultation	Fee per item, BD		
	TRA generated	Received consultations	Registration
Planning permission	200	50	10,000
Wayleave	20	10	
GSN	10	5	
Other	100	10	

#### 4.7 Annual turn-over based fee

28. The annual turn-over based fee is 1% of gross annual turnover of the licensee resulting from the licence. For the financial year commencing 1 January 2009, this will be reduced to 0.8% of gross annual turnover.