

# The Licensing Connection

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE U.S. COPYRIGHT OFFICE LICENSING SECTION

## Happy New Year, Stakeholders!

As we welcome 2026, the Licensing Section extends our warmest wishes to you and your teams. We are grateful for your continued cooperation and engagement throughout 2025—a year that brought important updates to our forms, the transition to electronic filing, expanded online access to SOA accounting periods, and meaningful outreach with operators across the country.

After serving five years as chief of the Licensing Section, this will be my final publication in that role. It has been an absolute pleasure serving our stakeholders and working alongside you to strengthen our processes and partnerships.

We look forward to building on this progress in 2026, with a continued focus on efficiency, transparency, and service to our community.

May the new year bring you success, growth, and renewed energy as we move into another productive year together.

With appreciation and best wishes,

**Tracie M. Coleman**  
Chief, Licensing Section



## Revised SOA Forms and Instruction Sheets for the 2025/2 Period Available Now

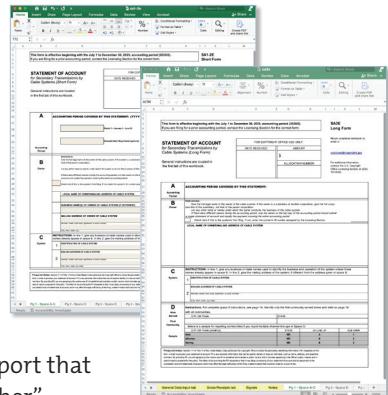
On December 12, 2024, the Copyright Royalty Board published a final rule pertaining to the section 111 and section 119 licenses. In accordance with the rulemaking, the Licensing Section has released revised SA1-2 and SA3 forms.

### The SA1-2 form includes the following changes:

- Remitters are now required to state the county for each community in addition to the city and state (Space D).
- Categories of Service should not be left blank. Moving forward remitters must provide information or select “zero”/“NA” (Space D).
- Remitters are now required to state any broadcast fees associated with each Category of Service (Space E).
- Converter has been changed to Equipment (Space E).
- Space F has been removed entirely.

### The SA3 form includes the following changes:

- The permitted basis “G” in Part 6/Block B on the cable SOAs (that is, commercial UHF stations within a Grade B contour) has been eliminated.
- If a cable operator needs to continue relying on a station’s Grade B contour to establish its “permitted” status, they may report that reliance under the existing “O – Other” designation.
- References to the Syndicated Exclusivity Surcharge have been removed.



In addition, new instruction sheets have been prepared and are available on our [website](#).



# Licensing Section Ceases Acceptance of Paper Forms

As of July 1, 2025, the Licensing Section requires electronic filing for all cable and satellite SOAs. The section will only accept submissions using the forms provided on its website in their native Excel format. Submission by mail will not be accepted.

Filing electronically streamlines the submission process, making it more efficient and reducing the time required for processing and examination. This eliminates the need for resources such as printing and mailing and therefore allows remitters to file their statements faster and more conveniently. We encourage remitters to familiarize themselves with the **electronic filing process**.

## Revised eSOA FAQ Document Available

The Licensing Section has revised our eSOA FAQ document with new and updated questions. You can find the PDF document [here](#).

# SOA Accounting Periods Now Available Online

Examined SOAs for the 2010/1 through 2024/1 accounting periods are now available [online](#), with the 2024/2 accounting period to follow.

## Licensing Section Attends the 2025 Independent Show

Representing the Licensing Section, Information Unit Head Oreon Pinkston and Licensing Specialist Corey Davis attended the 2025 Independent Show, an annual cable conference sponsored by the National Content & Technology Cooperative and America's Communications Association. Held in Salt Lake City, Utah, the conference offered an opportunity for Office staff to share and exchange information directly with cable operators from across the country about the section, updates concerning section 111 statutory licenses, and Pay.gov.



## Licensing and Federal Register Updates

### Cost of Living Adjustment to Satellite Carrier Compulsory License Royalty Rates

The Copyright Royalty Judges [announced a cost-of-living adjustment](#) (COLA) of 2.9 percent in the royalty rates satellite carriers pay for a compulsory license under the Copyright Act. The COLA is based on the change in the Consumer Price Index from October 2024 to September 2025.

### Cost of Living Adjustment to Public Broadcasters Compulsory License Royalty Rates

The Copyright Royalty Judges [announced a cost-of-living adjustment](#) (COLA) to the royalty rate noncommercial radio stations at certain colleges, universities, and other educational institutions not affiliated with National Public Radio must pay for the use in 2026 of published nondramatic musical compositions in the SESAC Performing Rights, LLC (SESAC) and Global Music Rights, LLC (GMR) repertoires pursuant to the statutory license under the Copyright Act for noncommercial broadcasting.

### Cost of Living Adjustment to Royalty Rates and Terms for Making and Distributing Phonorecords

The Copyright Royalty Judges [announced a cost-of-living adjustment](#) (COLA) in the royalty rates for the statutory license for making and distributing phonorecords of nondramatic musical works regarding physical phonorecords and permanent downloads.

## Important Reminders for 2025/2

**SATELLITE:** The \$725 filing fee per statement in addition to the appropriate royalty fee is to be filed between **January 1 and January 30**, inclusive.\*

**CABLE:** The filing fee (\$15 for SA-1, \$20 for SA-2, or \$725 for SA-3) per statement in addition to the appropriate royalty fee is to be filed between **January 1 and March 2**, inclusive.\*

**INTEREST RATES:** The [Interest Rate Table](#) has been revised to include the latest accounting period (2025/1).

\* Please remit the royalty and filing fees in one EFT payment via Pay.gov.

## Want More TLC Updates?

For previous issues, visit us on the web at [copyright.gov/licensing](#).

To be added to the mailing list for future issues, contact us at [licensing@copyright.gov](mailto:licensing@copyright.gov).

Need more information about your topic of interest? Email your suggestions to [licensing@copyright.gov](mailto:licensing@copyright.gov).

## Subscribe to NewsNet

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## Out & About

Licensing Section staff may be available to attend, exhibit, or participate in upcoming activities. Let us know your plans at [licensing@copyright.gov](mailto:licensing@copyright.gov).