



BILLAG



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON RADIO AND TELEVISION FEES IN SWITZERLAND

Watch and listen to the diversity of Switzerland

WHAT ARE THE RADIO AND TELEVISION FEES FOR?



Via the radio and television fees, you make an important contribution to the public service offered by radio and television in Switzerland.

The fees enable the SRG SSR to offer equivalent programmes in German, French and Italian Switzerland, as well as broadcasts in Romansh.

The SRG SSR's mandate includes amongst other things information, formation of opinion, education, culture and entertainment.

Private radio and television broadcasters in all the language regions also receive a portion of the fees for their regional and local programme services.

RECEIVERS



The following, in particular, are considered receiving devices:

- Radio (including car radio), mobile phone with radio reception, computer (including tablet) with internet access
- Television, mobile phone with television reception, computer (including tablet) with internet access, if you have an account (even a free account) with a provider of internet television.

EXEMPTION FOR RECEIPT OF SUPPLEMENTARY BENEFITS



If you receive supplementary benefits from the federal government in addition to AHV or IV pension, you are exempt from the radio and television fees.

This exemption is available on written request and should be sent at the time you request benefits from the relevant supplementary benefits office.

If you already receive supplementary benefits, please send us a current confirmation from your supplementary benefits office.

EXEMPTION FOR RECEIPT OF NURSING CARE




Residents of nursing homes who receive nursing care of 81 minutes or more per day are exempt from the radio and television fees. We require confirmation from the nursing home, specifying the relevant care received and the date on which this care was first provided.


PAYMENT OF THE RADIO AND TELEVISION FEES MEANS THAT YOU BENEFIT FROM THE DIVERSITY OF SWITZERLAND.

Your radio and television fees contribute to the variety of programme options in the German, French, Italian and Romansh-speaking areas of Switzerland.


OBLIGATION TO REGISTER AND PAY THE FEES

 Anyone in possession of equipment for listening to the radio or watching television is obliged to register and pay the radio and television fees. This applies regardless of how often programmes are watched and regardless of the equipment or distribution channel (cable, satellite, internet) used. Any number of people in the household can watch and listen to broadcasts, and the definition of 'household' also includes a holiday home. However, if you rent out your holiday home, a separate registration must be made.

LEGAL BASIS

 The Radio and Television Act (RTVA), Articles 68-70; Article 101 and the Radio and Television Ordinance (RTVO), Articles 57-67; Article 82 form the legal basis for the collection of radio and television fees. For the precise wording of each article, see billag.ch.

COMPANIES

 All companies that are able to receive television and radio programmes must pay radio and television fees. Different rules apply to business and commercial reception; copyright royalties are collected through Billag on behalf of the SUISA.

Companies can register themselves directly on our website billag.ch. You will also find further information on the radio and television fees there.

FOREIGN GUESTS



If you are not a resident of Switzerland and your stay in the country lasts for no more than three months within one calendar year, you do not need to register and you are not subject to radio and television fees.

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY



Everyone is responsible for registering, notifying a change of address and unsubscribing. It is important to do this in a reasonable timescale. By law, arrears in the radio and television fees of up to five years must be paid. Penalties of up to CHF 5,000 can apply.

OVERVIEW OF RADIO AND TELEVISION FEES



The Federal Council determines the radio and television fees every four years, taking into account the financial requirements of broadcasters.

Radio and television fees for 2011 to 2014 are as follows:

	QUARTERLY	ANNUAL
RADIO	CHF 42.30	CHF 169.15
TELEVISION	CHF 73.30	CHF 293.25
RADIO + TELEVISION	CHF 115.60	CHF 462.40

All fees include 2.5% VAT and have been rounded in accordance with standard commercial practice

INVOICING



We issue invoices for radio and television fees annually. If you wish, you may pay every three months; in which case, a surcharge of 2 CHF is applied per invoice. This does not apply if you pay by direct debit (through your bank or Post-Finance) or by electronic invoice.

SEPARATE COSTS FOR THE DISTRIBUTION CHANNEL



Radio and television services are delivered to homes via a distribution channel – for example, through a cable network, telephone network (IP-TV) or satellite.

You either have a subscription with an appropriate service provider or you pay for the service as an ancillary cost within your rent. These charges are independent of the radio and television fees and are billed to you by the provider or the landlord.

REGISTRATION OR CHANGE OF ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS



Please fill in the form online via our website billag.ch:
billag.ch/anmelden



WHAT IS BILLAG?



Billag AG is a private company (100% subsidiary of Swisscom) which was founded in 1997 with its headquarters in Fribourg.

On behalf of the federal government, we perform two main functions:

- Inform the public about the radio and television fees
- Collect the radio and television fees (including reminders and enforcement)

We transfer the radio and television fees received to the SRG SSR or to the Federal Office of Communications (OFCOM), which is responsible for distributing the fees to the private radio and television broadcasters.

As a contractor of the federal government, Billag is an implementation body and therefore has no influence over the amount and legal basis of the fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION | BILLAG.CH



You will find more information on the radio and television fees on our website billag.ch. You can also fill in your application form online.

We will be happy to advise you through our

Infoline 0844 834 834

Monday - Friday

7:30 am to 5:30 pm

