

appeal of a contested record is successful and there are no other disqualifying or potentially disqualifying records upon which to continue the “Did Not Pass” status, the NICS will communicate a “Pass” response to the FFL.

(f) An individual who is the subject of a denied transfer may also contest the accuracy or validity of a disqualifying record by bringing an action against the state or political subdivision responsible for providing the contested information, or responsible for denying the transfer, or against the United States, as the case may be, for an order directing that the contested information be corrected or that the firearm transfer be approved. Similarly, an individual who is the subject of a “Did Not Pass” response during an FHC may bring an action against the state or political subdivision responsible for providing the contested information, or responsible for providing the “Did Not Pass” response, or against the United States, as the case may be, for an order directing that the contested information be corrected or that the FHC be passed.

(g) An individual may provide written consent to the FBI to maintain information about the individual in a Voluntary Appeal File to be established by the FBI and checked by the NICS for the purpose of preventing future erroneous “Denied” or “Did Not Pass” responses or extended responses of “Delayed” or “Pending” by the NICS. Such file shall be used only by the NICS for prospective firearm transfers and FHCs. The FBI shall remove all information in the Voluntary Appeal File pertaining to an individual upon receipt of a written request by the individual. However, the FBI may retain such information contained in the Voluntary Appeal File as long as needed to pursue cases of identified misuse of the system. If the FBI finds a disqualifying record on the individual after the individual’s entry into the Voluntary Appeal File, the FBI may remove the individual’s information from the file.

■ 10. In § 25.11, revise paragraph (b)(1) to read as follows:

§ 25.11 Prohibited Activities and Penalties

* * * * *

(b) * * *

(1) State or local agencies’, FFLs’, or individuals’ purposefully furnishing incorrect information to the system to obtain a “Proceed” or “Pass” response.

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Dated: November 29, 2024.

Merrick B. Garland,
Attorney General.

[FR Doc. 2024–28711 Filed 12–11–24; 8:45 am]

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LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

U.S. Copyright Office

37 CFR Part 201

[Docket No. 2024–7]

Electronic Payment of Royalties Using Pay.gov

AGENCY: U.S. Copyright Office, Library of Congress.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The Copyright Office is proposing to amend its regulations regarding the submission of royalty fees to the Copyright Office to require that all such fees be paid using *Pay.gov*.
DATES: Written comments are due by January 13, 2025.

ADDRESSES: For reasons of government efficiency, the Copyright Office is using the *regulations.gov* system for the submission and posting of public comments in this proceeding. All comments are therefore to be submitted electronically through *regulations.gov*. Specific instructions for submitting comments are available on the Copyright Office website at <http://copyright.gov/rulemaking/royaltypayments>. If electronic submission of comments is not feasible due to lack of access to a computer and/or the internet, please contact the Office using the contact information below for special instructions.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rhea Efthimiadis, Assistant to the General Counsel, by email at mefth@copyright.gov, or by telephone at 202–707–8350.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 111 of the Copyright Act (“Act”), title 17 of the United States Code, provides cable operators with a statutory license to retransmit a performance or display of a work embodied in a “primary transmission” made by a television station licensed by the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”). Cable operators that retransmit broadcast signals in accordance with this provision are required to pay royalty fees to the Copyright Office (“Office”), among other requirements. Similarly, section 119 of the Act provides satellite carriers with a statutory license to retransmit certain primary transmissions if they satisfy

certain criteria, for which they also must pay royalty fees to the Office. In addition, sections 1003 and 1004 of the Act require manufacturers and importers of digital audio recording devices and digital audio recording media (“DART”) to pay royalty fees to the Office.

In 2006, the Office issued a rule requiring those royalty payments to be made using electronic funds transfer (“EFT”).¹ As noted when the rule was proposed, the use of EFT is beneficial to both the remitter and the Office for four reasons.² First, with Fedwire transactions, remitters gain more time to transfer funds without fear of incurring interest assessments for late payments. Second, electronic payments avoid the problems associated with lost checks or delays in processing mail. Third, copyright owners, the ultimate recipients of the funds, accrue more interest because the monies go directly to the Department of the Treasury instead of being diverted to the Copyright Office for processing first. And finally, the Office benefits from the use of the electronic payment option because it lessens its workload by reducing paperwork and related administrative costs.

Now, as part of broader efforts to make its services digitized, interconnected, searchable, and easier to navigate,³ the Office seeks to further simplify the royalty payment process by requiring remitters to use the U.S. Treasury Department’s *Pay.gov* system to submit EFT payments for all royalty and filing fees. In addition to the advantages noted above, mandating the use of *Pay.gov* benefits both remitters and the Office by (1) ensuring that the Office can receive, reconcile, and post payments in the same transaction; (2) providing remitters with the convenience of using a variety of methods, including credit or debit

¹ *Electronic Payment of Royalties*, 71 FR 45739 (Aug. 10, 2006) (final rule permitting remitters to choose between an Automated Clearing House (“ACH”) credit and a Fedwire transfer). See 37 CFR 201.11(f)(1), 201.17(k)(1), 201.28(h)(1). In 2018, the Office issued a rule allowing payments to be made with multiple EFT transfers, not just a single payment. *Streamlining Electronic Payment of DART Royalty Accounts and Electronic Royalty Payment Processes*, 83 FR 51840 (Oct. 15, 2018).

² See *Electronic Payment of Royalties*, 71 FR 24829, 24829–30 (Apr. 27, 2006) (proposed rule).

³ As part of this effort, the Office is reviewing its regulations and updating them where necessary to reflect current and anticipated practices. Among the regulations recently revised are those requiring the use of *Pay.gov* for non-royalty payments and those pertaining to statements of account for cable operators, satellite carriers, and DART remitters. See 37 CFR 201.6, 201.11, 201.17, 201.28; Statutory Cable, Satellite, and DART License Reporting Practices (published elsewhere in this issue of the *Federal Register*).

cards, as a form of payment; and (3) eliminating the need for remitters to separately complete the remittance advice form. Instead, they submit the remittance advice form through *Pay.gov* at the same time they make their payments. Thus, the proposed rule will allow more efficient collection and allocation of royalty fees. It will also harmonize payment regulations across services throughout the Office, which already mandate the use of *Pay.gov* for non-royalty electronic payments.⁴

The proposed rule does not alter the regulatory provisions allowing the Office to waive the requirement of payment by EFT. However, as the Office stated when it first required payment by EFT, waivers are “for those situations where there may be circumstances which make it virtually impossible for a remitter to use the electronic payment option or imposes a financial or other hardship.”⁵

To assist remitters unfamiliar with *Pay.gov*, the Office has created tutorials to guide remitters, which are posted on the Licensing Section’s website.⁶

List of Subjects in 37 CFR Part 201

Copyright, General provisions.

Proposed Regulations

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, the Copyright Office proposes amending 37 CFR part 201 as follows:

PART 201—GENERAL PROVISIONS

■ 1. The authority citation for part 201 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 17 U.S.C. 702.

■ 2. Amend § 201.11 by revising paragraphs (f)(1) and (h)(3)(iv) to read as follows:

§ 201.11 Satellite carrier statements of account covering statutory licenses for secondary transmissions.

* * * * *

(f) * * *

(1) All royalty fees shall be paid by electronic funds transfer using *Pay.gov*, and payment must be received in the designated bank by the filing deadline for the relevant accounting period. Satellite carriers must provide specific information as part of the EFT and as part of the remittance advice, as listed

in the instructions for *Pay.gov*, the Statement of Account form, and the Office’s website.

* * * * *

(h) * * *

(3) * * *

(iv)(A) All requests filed under this paragraph (h) must be accompanied by a filing fee in the amount prescribed in § 201.3(e) of this part for each Statement of Account involved. Payment of this fee must be by EFT using *Pay.gov*. No request will be processed until the appropriate filing fees are received.

(B) All requests that a supplemental royalty fee payment be received for deposit under this paragraph (h) must be accompanied by a remittance in the full amount of such fee. Payment of the supplemental royalty fee must be by EFT using *Pay.gov*. No such request will be processed until an acceptable remittance in the full amount of the supplemental royalty fee has been received.

* * * * *

■ 3. Amend § 201.17 by revising paragraphs (k)(1) and (l)(4)(iv)(A) and (B) to read as follows:

§ 201.17 Statements of Account covering compulsory licenses for secondary transmissions by cable systems.

* * * * *

(k) * * *

(1) All royalty fees must be paid by electronic funds transfer (EFT) using *Pay.gov*, and must be received in the designated bank by the filing deadline for the relevant accounting period. Cable systems must provide specific information as part of the EFT and as part of the remittance advice, as listed in the instructions for *Pay.gov*, the Statement of Account form and on the Office’s website.

* * * * *

(l) * * *

(4) * * *

(iv)(A) All requests filed under this paragraph (l) must be accompanied by a filing fee in the amount prescribed in § 201.3(e) of this part for each Statement of Account involved. Payment of this fee must be made by an electronic payment using *Pay.gov*. No request will be processed until the appropriate filing fees are received; and

(B) All requests that a supplemental royalty fee payment be received for deposit under this paragraph (l) must be accompanied by a remittance in the full amount of such fee. Payment of the supplemental royalty fee must be by an electronic payment using *Pay.gov*. No such request will be processed until an acceptable remittance in the full amount

of the supplemental royalty fee has been received.

* * * * *

■ 4. Amend § 201.28 by revising paragraphs (h)(1) and (j)(3)(v) to read as follows:

§ 201.28 Statements of Account for digital audio recording devices or media.

* * * * *

(h) * * *

(1) All royalty fees must be paid by electronic funds transfer (EFT) using *Pay.gov*, and must be received in the designated bank by the filing deadline for the relevant accounting period. Remitters must provide specific information as part of the EFT and as part of the remittance advice, as listed in the instructions for *Pay.gov*, the Statement of Account form, and the Office’s website.

* * * * *

(j) * * *

(3) * * *

(v)(A) The request must be accompanied by a filing fee in the amount prescribed in § 201.3(e) for each Statement of Account involved. Payment of this fee must be by EFT using *Pay.gov*. No request will be processed until the appropriate filing fees are received.

(B) Requests that a supplemental royalty fee payment be deposited must be accompanied by a remittance in the full amount of such fee. Payment of the supplemental royalty fee must be by electronic payment using *Pay.gov*. No such request will be processed until an acceptable remittance in the full amount of the supplemental royalty fee has been received.

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Dated: December 5, 2024.

Suzy Wilson,

General Counsel and Associate Register of Copyrights.

[FR Doc. 2024–29119 Filed 12–11–24; 8:45 am]

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POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION

39 CFR Part 3041

[Docket Nos. RM2025–5 and K2025–491; Order No. 8239]

Streamlined Negotiated Service Agreement Review and New Postal Product

AGENCY: Postal Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notification of filing.

SUMMARY: The Commission is acknowledging a recent Postal Service filing requesting the Commission

⁴ See 37 CFR 201.6(a)(1); *Remitter Payment Options and Deposit Account Requirements*, 87 FR 59306 (Sept. 30, 2022) (final rule).

⁵ 71 FR at 45739.

⁶ United States Copyright Office, Circular 74, June 2022: *How to Make Statutory License Royalty EFT Payments Using Pay.gov*, <https://copyright.gov/circs/circ74.pdf>; United States Copyright Office, *Make Statutory License Royalty Payments Using Pay.gov*, <https://copyright.gov/licensing/eftpayment>.