



PUBLIC NOTICE

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**THE OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS ANNOUNCES THE
OPENING OF THE ONE-TIME INFORMATION COLLECTION FILING
WINDOW FOR INTERNATIONAL SECTION 214 AUTHORIZATION HOLDERS
TO PROVIDE FOREIGN OWNERSHIP INFORMATION**

The Electronic Filing Window Opens on December 8, 2023 and Closes on January 22, 2024

IB Docket No. 23-119; MD Docket No. 23-134

On April 20, 2023, the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) adopted the *Evolving Risks Order and NPRM* that, among other things, requires all international section 214 authorization holders (Authorization Holders) to respond to a one-time collection (One-Time Information Collection) to update the Commission's records regarding their foreign ownership.¹ By this Public Notice, the Office of International Affairs (OIA) announces the deadline of the One-Time Information Collection.² Starting today, Authorization Holders can file responses to the One-Time Information Collection.³ All Authorization Holders are required to file their responses in the One-Time Information Collection Online Filing System no later than **11:59 pm Eastern Time (ET) on January 22, 2024.**⁴

¹ *Review of International Section 214 Authorizations to Assess Evolving National Security, Law Enforcement, Foreign Policy, and Trade Policy Risks; Amendment of the Schedule of Application Fees Set Forth in Sections 1.1102 through 1.1109 of the Commission's Rules*, IB Docket No. 23-119, MD Docket No. 23-134, Order and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 23-28, 2023 WL 3152050, at *1, 9-12, paras. 1, 16-23 (Apr. 20, 2023) (*Evolving Risks Order and NPRM*); Federal Communications Commission, Review of International Authorizations to Assess Evolving National Security, Law Enforcement, Foreign Policy, and Trade Policy Risks; Amendment of the Schedule of Application Fees, 88 Fed. Reg. 85514 (Dec. 8, 2023) (*Evolving Risks Order Federal Register*). Pursuant to the Commission's directive, on August 22, 2023, OIA adopted an exemption (Exemption) for Authorization Holders whose applications were granted within three years prior to the deadline of the One-Time Information Collection. *Review of International Section 214 Authorizations to Assess Evolving National Security, Law Enforcement, Foreign Policy, and Trade Policy Risks; Amendment of the Schedule of Application Fees Set Forth in Sections 1.1102 through 1.1109 of the Commission's Rules*, IB Docket No. 23-119, MD Docket No. 23-134, Order, DA 23-745, 2023 WL 5443923, at *2-3, paras. 6-8 (OIA Aug. 22, 2023) (*Exemption Order*); Federal Communications Commission, Review of International Authorizations To Assess Evolving National Security, Law Enforcement, Foreign Policy, and Trade Policy Risks; Amendment of the Schedule of Application Fees, 88 Fed. Reg. 50486 (Aug. 1, 2023).

² This Public Notice will be published in the FCC Record. On December 8, 2023, the Commission published in the Federal Register an announcement that the Office of Management and Budget approved the information collection associated with the *Evolving Risks Order*, and an announcement of the filing deadline for the information collection requirements in that Order. See *Evolving Risks Order Federal Register*.

³ *Id.*

⁴ OIA will attempt to provide this Public Notice to carriers' D.C. agents by email or U.S. mail. Entities represented by the agent are expected to respond only if they hold international section 214 authorizations.

Order Mandating the One-Time Information Collection and Order Adopting Exemption.

Below are links to the Commission's *Evolving Risks Order* and OIA's *Exemption Order*.⁵

- ***Evolving Risks Order*** – The *Evolving Risks Order* is available at <https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-periodic-reviews-international-telecom-authorizations-0>.
- ***Exemption Order*** – The *Exemption Order* is available at <https://www.fcc.gov/document/deny-motion-extension-and-adopt-exemption-one-time-collection>.

One-Time Information Collection Online Filing System. Below are the links to the FCC's One-Time Information Collection webpage, the One-Time Information Collection Online Filing System, and other important documents and instructions to assist Authorization Holders in completing the submission.

- **One-Time Information Collection Webpage** – The One-Time Information Collection Webpage is available at <https://www.fcc.gov/one-time-information-collection-international-section-214-authorization-holders>.
- **One-Time Information Collection Online Filing System** – The One-Time Information Collection Online Filing System is available at https://fccgov.gov1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8pRWfOK9suOxy86.
- **Instructions** – The Instructions are available in Attachment 1.
- **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)** – The FAQs are available at <https://www.fcc.gov/faq-one-time-information-collection-international-section-214-authorization-holders>.
- **Privacy Act Statement** – The Privacy Act Statement is available in Attachment 2.
- **FCC Notice Required by the Paperwork Reduction Act** – The FCC Notice Required by the Paperwork Reduction Act is available in Attachment 3.
- **Requesting a Retake Link to Correct Errors Prior to Submission.** If an Authorization Holder needs to correct an error on any question before it certifies and submits its responses to the One-Time Information Collection, the Authorization Holder can send an email to Evolving.Risks_RetakeLink@fcc.gov to request a new link to retake the One-Time Information Collection.

Failure to Timely Respond to the One-Time Information Collection. The Commission is currently considering in a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in IB Docket No. 23-119 whether to cancel the authorizations of carriers that fail to timely respond to the One-Time Information Collection and to impose forfeitures or other measures where a carrier fails to respond in a timely or complete manner.⁶

Requirement for an FCC Registration Number (FRN). We remind all Authorization Holders that they must have an FRN to file their responses in the One-Time Information Collection Online Filing System.⁷ An FRN is the 10-digit number assigned to all individuals and entities that transact business

⁵ See *supra* note 1.

⁶ *Evolving Risks Order and NPRM* at *10, 12, paras. 18, 25-26.

⁷ *Id.* at *11, para. 22.

with the Commission,⁸ and it must be provided any time an Authorization Holder submits an application in the International Communications Filing System (ICFS).⁹

- **Authorization Holder Does Not Have an FRN.** If an Authorization Holder does not have an FRN, the Authorization Holder must obtain an FRN through the Commission Registration System (CORES) webpage at <https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/userLogin.do>.
 - An entity that holds an International Section 214 Authorization should identify itself as an “Entity” in CORES.
 - For additional assistance, submit a help request at <https://www.fcc.gov/wireless/available-support-services> or call the FRN Help Desk at (877) 480-3201 (Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. ET).
 - After obtaining its FRN, the Authorization Holder should complete the following steps:
 1. The Authorization Holder must send an email to ICFSInfo@fcc.gov to request that FCC staff add the FRN to its current Authorization File Number(s) in ICFS.
 2. The Authorization Holder will need to provide its FRN, current Authorization File Number(s), and telephone number in the email to FCC staff.
 3. Once FCC staff update the information in ICFS, FCC staff will inform the Authorization Holder by email that it can complete the One-Time Information Collection.
 4. The Authorization Holder can also check whether its FRN is associated with its current Authorization File Number(s) in ICFS at: <https://www.fcc.gov/icfs>.
 - If the Authorization Holder has further questions, it can send an email to ICFSInfo@fcc.gov.
- **FRN is Associated with Current Authorization File Number(s).** If an Authorization Holder has an FRN associated with a current Authorization File Number(s) in ICFS, the Authorization Holder must submit a response to the One-Time Information Collection using that specific FRN.
 - The Authorization Holder should not obtain a new FRN.
 - An Authorization Holder can determine the FRN associated with its current Authorization File Number(s) by accessing records associated with the Authorization File Number(s) in ICFS at: <https://www.fcc.gov/icfs>.
- **FRN is Not Associated with Current Authorization File Number(s).** If an Authorization Holder has an FRN, but the FRN is not associated with a current Authorization File Number(s) in ICFS, the Authorization Holder must contact FCC staff to add the FRN to its current Authorization File Number(s) in ICFS. Below are the steps:
 1. The Authorization Holder must send an email to ICFSInfo@fcc.gov to request that FCC staff add the FRN to its current Authorization File Number(s) in ICFS.

⁸ 47 CFR § 1.8002(a) (“The FRN must be obtained by anyone doing business with the Commission, see 31 U.S.C. 7701(c)(2) . . .”).

⁹ *Evolving Risks Order and NPRM* at *11, para. 22. As the Commission stated in the *Evolving Risks Order*, many international section 214 authorizations were granted to entities prior to the Commission requiring an FRN in 2001. *Id.* Such entities will need to obtain an FRN prior to filing their response to the information collection. *Id.*

2. The Authorization Holder will need to provide its FRN, current Authorization File Number(s), and telephone number in the email to FCC staff.
3. Once FCC staff update the information in ICFS, FCC staff will inform the Authorization Holder by email that it can complete the One-Time Information Collection.
4. The Authorization Holder can also check whether its FRN is associated with its current Authorization File Number(s) in ICFS at: <https://www.fcc.gov/icfs>.
 - If the Authorization Holder has further questions, it can send an email to ICFSInfo@fcc.gov.

Exemption. All Authorization Holders are required to file a response to the One-Time Information Collection even if the Authorization Holder qualifies for the Exemption. Under the Exemption, qualifying Authorization Holders are exempt from answering questions in the One-Time Information Collection regarding the identities, specific equity and voting interests, and description of controlling interests, of their Reportable Foreign Interest Holders.¹⁰ Instead, Authorization Holders that qualify for the Exemption will be required to identify, on an aggregated basis, all of the citizenship(s) or place(s) of organization of their Reportable Foreign Interest Holders.¹¹ Specifically, to qualify for the Exemption:

- (1) The Authorization Holder must have filed an application for an initial International Section 214 Authorization, modification, or *substantial* (not a *pro forma* filing) assignment or transfer of control of the authorization that was reviewed by the Executive Branch agencies **and was granted by the Commission on or after January 22, 2021**; and
- (2) There are no Reportable Foreign Interest Holders of the Authorization Holder other than those disclosed in the application (including any amendment), and there are no changes to the Reportable Foreign Interest Holders disclosed in the application (including any amendment) **as of December 23, 2023**.¹²

To qualify for the Exemption, Authorization Holders will also need to supply the File Number of the application that fulfills all of these requirements.

Surrender of International Section 214 Authorizations. If an Authorization Holder files a surrender letter before the filing deadline, the Authorization Holder **does not** need to respond to the One-Time Information Collection. An Authorization Holder that no longer needs or uses its authorization(s) is strongly encouraged to surrender its International Section 214 Authorization(s) **before** the filing deadline.

- **Filing a Surrender Letter in ICFS.** An Authorization Holder may file a surrender letter in ICFS. The Commission does not have a specific rule on surrender letters but it is customary for the Authorization Holder to upload a letter surrendering the International Section 214 Authorization in ICFS for its Authorization File Number(s).

¹⁰ *Exemption Order* at *2, para. 7.

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² *Id.* at *2-3, para. 7. To qualify for the Exemption, there must be no changes to the Reportable Foreign Interest Holders disclosed in the application (including any amendment), including but not limited to: no change in the reported citizenship(s), including dual or multiple citizenships, and/or place(s) of organization of any Reportable Foreign Interest Holder; no removal of any Reportable Foreign Interest Holder from an Authorization Holder's chain of ownership; and no change in a Reportable Foreign Interest Holder's ownership interests to less than 10% equity and/or voting interests or less than a controlling interest. See *Evolving Risks Order and NPRM* at *10-11, paras. 18-20 & nn.72-74, 78-80.

- **Link to ICFS.** To file a surrender letter, the Authorization Holder may visit the ICFS homepage at <https://www.fcc.gov/icfs>.
 - The Authorization Holder should file the surrender letter in ICFS as a “Letter” under “Pleadings and Comments.”
- **Information in the Surrender Letter.** In the surrender letter, it is customary for the Authorization Holder to provide:
 - The Authorization File Number(s) that the Authorization Holder is surrendering;
 - Information as to whether the Authorization Holder has existing customers;
 - An explanation as to what is happening and/or will happen to the customers.
 - For example, whether the carrier has filed a notification of discontinuance pursuant to [Section 63.19](#) of the Commission’s rules, or whether the carrier has other International Section 214 Authorizations that it will use to continue providing service to its customers.
- An Authorization Holder that **does not** file a surrender letter before the filing deadline **must respond** to the One-Time Information Collection, even if the Authorization Holder no longer needs or uses its International Section 214 Authorization.

Additional FCC Assistance on the One-Time Information Collection. Authorization Holders are encouraged to complete the One-Time Information Collection as early as possible prior to the filing deadline of January 22, 2024. This will give Authorization Holders an opportunity to address any questions regarding the One-Time Information Collection and the Online Filing System in advance of the deadline.

- **One-Time Information Collection.** For questions about the One-Time Information Collection, email the FCC’s Office of International Affairs, Telecommunications & Analysis Division at fcc-evolving-risks@fcc.gov.
- **FCC Registration Numbers (FRNs).** For questions relating to FRNs, submit a help request at <https://www.fcc.gov/wireless/available-support-services> or call the FRN Help Desk at (877) 480-3201 (Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Eastern time (ET)). Additional information regarding FRNs can be found on the Commission Registration System (CORES) webpage at <https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/userLogin.do>.
- **ICFS.** Additional information regarding ICFS can be found on the ICFS homepage at <https://www.fcc.gov/icfs>. For questions relating to ICFS, email ICFSInfo@fcc.gov or call ICFS Help Line at (202) 418-2222 (Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. ET).