



Factsheet on the universal radio and television fee – January 2019

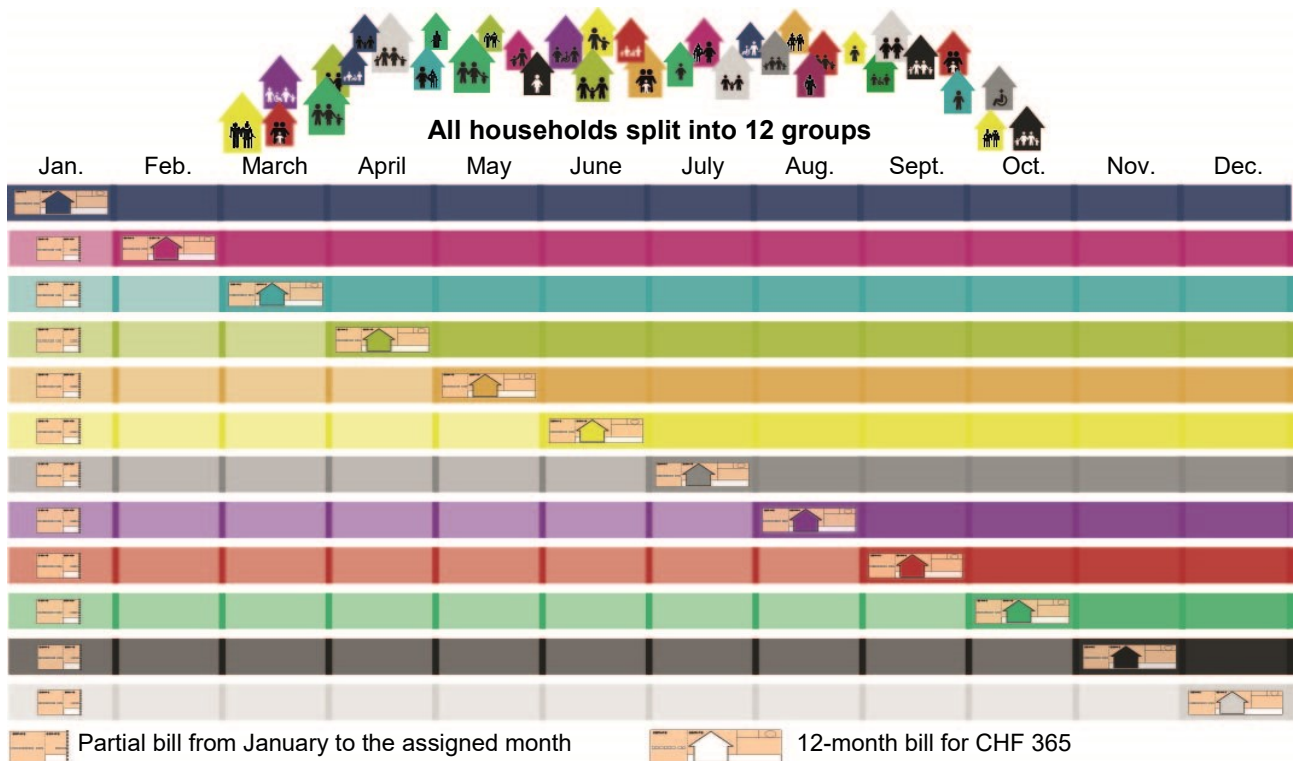
Billing in the first year of the new fee for radio and TV

The introduction of the new universal fee requires a special billing system in the year 2019. The new fee system began on January 1 with partial bills from the new Swiss collection agency for the universal radio and television fee, Serafe.

Twelve groups

In 2019 Serafe will implement phased billing, so that in subsequent years the sending of annual bills can be distributed evenly throughout the whole calendar year. On a random basis, each household was assigned to one of twelve billing groups (January to December).

In January 2019 eleven groups have received a partial bill; one group has already received the annual bill of CHF 365. The following table shows the respective groups. For example, someone assigned to group 7 has received a partial bill in January 2019 up to the end of June, i.e. for six months, and receives an annual bill for the period from the beginning of July to the end of June of the following year. Only the first group – i.e. the January group - has not received a partial bill and paid the full amount of CHF 365 in one bill.



Billing terms and conditions

Bills can be paid as an annual or quarterly bill, in paper form, as an e-bill or by direct debit. A paper quarterly bill will continue to cost an additional CHF 2 because of the higher administrative costs. Serafe may demand CHF 5 to cover the cost of reminders and CHF 20 for debt recovery actions in law. The bill will be issued in the first month of the billing period; the annual bill is due within 60 days and the partial and quarterly bill is due within 30 days. The statutory period of limitation is five years.

Joint and several liability of fellow occupants

Since 1 January 2019, the joint and several liability of adult members of a household is new. Each bill lists all adult members of a household at the time the bill was issued. Serafe can demand the full amount from each of the individuals listed on the bill – though only once in total. The way the bill is split up internally is a matter for the adult members of the household and is subject to civil law.

In the address block of the bill for the fee, the adults are listed individually, up to a household size of three adult members. In the case of households consisting of more than three adult members, the personal designation of an adult person in the address block is supplemented by the wording “other persons liable for the fee”.

Joint and several liability does not apply to collective households. Here the responsible body is liable; residents cannot be held responsible.

Information for households

The first bill from Serafe might have surprised the households: a new amount and a new collection agency. Explanations are provided on the reverse of the bill and in two flyers produced by the Federal Office of Communications (OFCOM), as accompanying documents of the partial bill and the annual bill. In these two enclosures, the principles of the new fee are stated once again and the arrangements for billing in the first year are explained.

Legal basis

- Federal Radio and Television Act (RTVA; CC 784.40) Article 69a
- Radio and Television Ordinance (RTVO; CC 784.401) Articles 58 - 60, 87 - 88