

Music Licence

Do I need a music Licence?

If you play copyrighted music in your store or office, then you will need to get a music licence to pay the copyright holders for broadcasting of the music. This applies to all sources of music including radio and streaming services. Broadly speaking, it includes any presentation of music outside of a domestic setting or not being used for personal use.

How much is a music licence?

This is where it gets tricky for self storage businesses as the licence costs are based on the size of the store in sqm if customers are listening to the music. However, you should argue that the storage space is not a public space and hence should be exempted from this calculation. If you only play music in the reception area, then this would be the space used to calculate the fee. If you play music in the store itself then count the corridors, loading bays and other publicly accessible areas. A store with 100sqm or less pays around £350 a year for a licence.

If you are only playing music in the office for staff and this cannot be heard by the customers, then the fee is based on the number of employees. A business with less than 4 employees pays around £100 a year.

Where do I get a licence?

You apply for a licence online at pplprs.co.uk or call 0333 257 8637.

What other options are there?

You can play royalty free music without a music licence. There are numerous providers online if you search for royalty free music. Some are completely free, and others have their own streaming subscription costs. There is a growing amount of royalty free music online, it tends to be more generic background style music.

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