

NetworkIP Regulatory Resources:

Regulatory Checklist: Are You in Compliance?

NetworkIP encourages all of its customers to perform a “Regulatory Checkup” to ensure that they are compliant with their regulatory obligations. We are providing a checklist for you below as a starting point. This checklist is strictly an overview and not to be interpreted as legal advice. You will need to apply this general information to your entity-specific situation and may need to seek legal advice to ensure you are in full compliance with the federal and state laws for telecommunications companies.

You should consider the following obligations of a Common Carrier:

- Possessing an FRN – Federal Registration Number with the FCC, which can be obtained by registering at <https://svartifoss2.fcc.gov/coresWeb/publicHome.do>
- Holding a 214 License – all telecommunications providers (including facilities-based carriers, resellers, prepaid calling card providers, Interconnected VoIP and many wireless service providers) offering calling between the U.S. and foreign points must obtain a certificate of authority under Section 214 of the Communications Act of 1934 (“Act”). In short, a 214 authorization is a license to offer international telecommunications service. The filing fee with the FCC is \$965. If there is no foreign ownership, legal fees to obtain Section 214 license, obtain federal registration no. and preparation of disclosure document (tariff) are approximately \$1,500. If there are foreign ownership issues, legal fees are approximately \$2,500. The time frame for obtaining a 214 license is approximately 21 days if no foreign ownership; if there are foreign ownership issues, then the time frame is approximately 90 to 120 days.
- Obtaining a USAC Filer ID – necessary for filing Universal Service Fund forms 499-A and 499-Q which can be obtained at <http://www.universalservice.org/fund-administration/contributors/obtain-form499-filer-id/>
- Applying for State Certifications – The service provider that is listed on the back of a prepaid calling card must obtain and maintain a state certification as an IXC and/or CLEC with the PUC/PSC in every state in which it sells telecommunication services.



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- Being properly certified in the state of Illinois – need to file Application to obtain a “Certificate of Prepaid Calling Service Provider Authority”
- Being “Qualified” to do business in your state – your company should be registered and qualified to do business with the Secretary of State in the state where your business is registered.
- Filing State Registration(s) – necessary when providing service and generating revenue in a particular state.
- Obtaining a Registered Agent – Secretaries of State and PUC’s require that you have a registered agent for service of process issues.
- USAC requires each carrier “to designate in writing an agent in the District of Columbia” upon whom all notices, process, orders, and decisions made by the Commission may be served on behalf of that carrier. This is required information to obtain a Filer ID.
- Legal filing of DBAs or AKAs – If your company operates or advertises under any fictitious names, those names should be registered with the states in which you are doing business in that name.

This list is certainly a non-exhaustive list, but is at the least the registrations and certifications that you should review to determine if your company is regulatory-compliant.

