

January 8, 2015

To: ASCAP Blanket License Stations

From: Television Music License Committee

Subject: **The new ASCAP ABL (Adjustable Blanket License) License**

- ✓ *Are you an ASCAP Blanket License station?*
- ✓ *Do you produce your local news or other local programming?*

***Then you should elect the new ASCAP ABL license and qualify for a discount from your ASCAP blanket license fee!!!!***

*All you have to do is elect the ABL license with ASCAP **before January 31, 2015** (or after that date for later qualification). ASCAP will then bill you the net amounts due on a monthly basis.*

*In order to elect this license form, you will need to send ASCAP an email electing the new ABL license at [tvlicensing@ascap.com](mailto:tvlicensing@ascap.com) **before January 31, 2015** and sign the new ABL license which will be available on the [TVMLC.com](http://TVMLC.com) website as soon as it is finalized. Please call Alixandra Steier at 301-961-1970 if you have any questions.*

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The new alternative ASCAP ABL Blanket License will become effective January 1, 2015. This new alternative license negotiated by the TMLC gives a station credit against their monthly blanket fee based on the amount of locally produced programming broadcast by the station. It does not require direct licensing of the performance rights (see [TVMLC.com](http://TVMLC.com) for a copy of the license). The 2015 ABL monthly fee will be equal to 15% of your station blanket fee plus an amount equal to 85% of your monthly blanket fee reduced by a fraction equal to 50% of the minutes of locally produced programming divided by the total minutes of “non-network” programming. As always, non-network programming excludes only the network programming produced and distributed by the ABC, CBS and NBC networks. For 2015, your local programming fraction is based on the classification of programs by Gracenote (formerly Tribune Media Services or TMS) on your station for the period from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014.

The fraction for 2016 will be based on your station’s programming from July 1, 2014 –June 30, 2015 as classified by Gracenote (formerly TMS or Tribune Media Services). Although we assume you already review these program classifications on a monthly basis, this may give you another reason to verify their accuracy to make certain that your locally produced programming is correctly recorded by Gracenote. We should also note that any “sports” event that includes music throughout (for instance, ice skating or cheerleading events) may not qualify for the reduction.

Questions? Take advantage of our expertise. Call Alixandra Steier at 301-961-1970 or [alix@televisionmusic.com](mailto:alix@televisionmusic.com). She will be able to help you with your election process and help guide you with your decision making on this license choice.