Taxes, Fees & Surcharges

Cirion Technologies Solutions, LLC, and Affiliates ("the Company")
December 19, 2024

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Cirion's rates and charges for service are exclusive of the following taxes, fees and surcharges. These charges shall not be counted toward the attainment of any volume or revenue commitment and will not be discounted.

All taxes, tax-like charges and the tax-related surcharges are referred to collectively as "tax(es)."

Taxes, fees and surcharges include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Applicable federal, state, local, and foreign sales, use, excise, utility, turn over tax, gross receipts and value added taxes
- Tax-like charges to recover charges the Company is required or permitted by a governmental or quasi-governmental authority to collect from others or pay to others in support of statutory or regulatory funds or programs
- All other tax-like charges that are imposed or operate like taxes, but are not directly referred to as taxes
- Any tax imposed by an authority on the benefits of a promotion offered by the Company involving services or goods of a third party as well as all other taxes
- A tax-related surcharge or other surcharge to recover a tax or fee imposed in a federal, state, or local jurisdiction that levies, or asserts a claim of right to levy:
    - A gross receipts tax, turn over tax, a license tax, or other tax-like charge on the Company's gross receipts, revenues or operations; and
    - A tax on interstate and/or international access charges incurred by the Company for access to telephone exchanges based on the amount paid for interstate access charges; and
    - A Property Surcharge which allows the Company to recover property taxes it pays to federal, state and/or local jurisdictions; and
    - A Cost Recovery Fee which allows the Company to recover expenses such as, but not limited to, federal, state, and/or local regulatory and license fees, fees to fund telecommunications services for the speech and hearing-impaired, and costs associated with North American Numbering Plan administration
- An Administrative Expense Fee to recover a portion of internal costs and expenses incurred by the Company to implement, administer, and comply with federal regulations and programs.
- The Company will assess all applicable taxes and the Customer will be responsible for paying these taxes.

If the Company collects taxes and a challenged tax is found to have been invalid and unenforceable, and if the amounts collected were retained by the Company or delivered over to the jurisdiction and returned to the Company, the Company, in its sole discretion, may reduce service rates for a fixed period of time in the future in order to flow-through to Customers an amount equivalent to the amounts collected, credit or refund such amounts to affected Customers (less its reasonable administrative costs), or negotiate an arrangement with the jurisdiction to provide a future benefit for Customers in that jurisdiction.

- The Company reserves the right to collect any applicable taxes retroactively.

If the Customer provides the Company with a duly authorized exemption certificate, the Company will exempt the Customer in accordance with law, effective on the date the Company receives the properly executed certificate.

- There are some charges that are not eligible for exemption.

More detailed information regarding applicable federal, state, and local taxes, fees and surcharges is provided below:

Federal, state and local governments assess a variety of taxes and surcharges and the Company collects the required taxes and remits the appropriate amounts to the taxing agencies. There are several types of federal, state. and local taxes, fees and surcharges that apply to services sold by the Company including:

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- Federal Universal Service Fund Surcharge (FUSF) in the US only – *see below section on FUSF for more detail*
- Federal, state and local taxes, fees and surcharges – *see below section on taxes for more detail*
- Other surcharges – *see below section on other surcharges for more detail*

The information contained in this document is for reference only and is subject to change without notice. It is not intended to replace or supersede any federal, state or local laws and regulations. Updated information with respect to changes in federal, state and local taxes can be obtained from the respective governmental agencies.

FEDERAL UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND (FUSF) – *UNITED STATES ONLY*

The Federal Universal Service Fund (FUSF) surcharge is billed at the FUSF rate established by the FCC. The rate changes from time to time, generally on a quarterly basis. It is a regulatory charge, not a tax. Below is a chart of previous quarterly rates.

- 1Q 2018 19.5%
- 2Q 2018 18.4%
- 3Q 2018 17.9%
- 4Q 2018 20.1%
- 1Q 2019 20.0%
- 2Q 2019 18.8%
- 3Q 2019 24.4%
- 4Q 2019 25.0%
- 1Q 2020 21.2%
- 2Q 2020 19.6%
- 3Q 2020 26.5%
- 4Q 2020 27.1%
- 1Q 2021 31.8%
- 2Q 2021 33.4%
- 3Q 2021 31.8%
- 4Q 2021 29.1%
- 1Q 2022 25.2%
- 2Q 2022 23.8%
- 3Q 2022 33.0%
- 4Q 2022 28.9%
- 1Q 2023 32.6%

As of the last publication date, the current FUSF surcharge is equal to 32.6% of all applicable charges appearing on a Customer's invoice. The FUSF surcharge applies to telecommunications services subject to direct regulation by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), as well as to interconnected VoIP. A Customer will not be required to pay the FUSF if it demonstrates to the Company's reasonable satisfaction that it is acquiring the Company's services for resale, i.e., not for its own internal use, and is contributing directly into the government's Universal Service funding programs.

The FUSF will: (i) be calculated after the application of promotional and other discounts; (ii) not be eligible to receive promotional or any other discounts; (iii) not be included to determine satisfaction of usage volume requirements; (iv) be calculated based upon

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the rates and charges applicable to the Customer's total interstate and international service, unless otherwise specified; (v) apply to tax-like and/or tax-related surcharges as defined or described herein; and (vi) not apply to calls using Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) or to calls originated by certified Customers with hearing or speech impairments.

Universal Service is a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) program designed to ensure affordable access to telecommunications services to low-income Customers, rural areas, school and libraries, and rural healthcare facilities. The FUSF was established by Congress in order to promote and encourage telecommunications infrastructure and service availability nationwide. The FCC is the agency responsible for the regulation of domestic interstate and U.S.-to-international telecommunications services.

All telecommunications providers that offer interstate and international voice, including Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) and data, private line, and other regulated services in the United States are required by the FCC to contribute on an equitable and nondiscriminatory basis to the FUSF.

This includes Customers whose circuits with the Company have only one end-point in the United States, even if that circuit is being cross-connected by the Customer ultimately to terminate internationally.

Interstate circuits have FUSF applied to 100% of the revenue if both ends of the circuit are within the United States.

International circuits have FUSF applied to 50% of the revenue when only one end-point is in the United States.

Taxes generally are assessed on the FUSF surcharge. It is important to understand that the FUSF surcharge is not a tax. It is a charge that the government imposes on telecommunications carriers on the voice and data revenues they collect. The FCC allows carriers to recover the cost of the surcharge from its end-user Customers. Thus, the FUSF surcharge is not considered a tax and must be taxed as normal revenues.

SURCHARGES

The Company also charges the following surcharges to recover fees imposed on the Company for doing business in certain jurisdictions.

- Property Surcharge
- Cost Recovery Fee
- Administrative Expense Fee

These surcharges are associated with certain taxes and fees imposed on the Company and are both consistent with our Customer Agreements and standard industry practice. These fees are allowed under our standard Customer contracts and many carriers recover these fees in the form of surcharges.

PROPERTY SURCHARGE

A tax-related surcharge in addition to the other charges for service will apply equal to 2% of the total interstate, international and unregulated charges (including usage and non-usage charges) after the application of applicable discounts and credits. The surcharge is not a tax or government charge, but recovers amounts paid to various taxing jurisdictions for property taxes imposed on the Company and its affiliates. Regulatory fees and other taxes, fees and surcharges may apply to the surcharge (including but not limited to the FUSF in the United States).

COST RECOVERY FEE

A surcharge equal to 5.25% of all applicable charges appearing on a Customer's invoice will apply to interstate and international telecommunications services as well as to Interconnected VoIP service charges treated as interstate under Federal Communications Commission rules. This fee is not a tax or government charge; it recovers costs the Company incurs for expenses such as, but not limited to, federal, state, and local regulatory and licensing fees (including but not limited to the FSUF in the United States).

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ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE FEE

A fee equal to 1.15% of all applicable charges appearing on a Customer's invoice will apply to interstate and international telecommunications services subject to direct regulation by government regulatory agencies as well as to Interconnected VoIP service charges treated as interstate under regulatory rules. This fee is imposed to recover a portion of internal costs and expenses incurred by the Company to implement, administer, and comply with various government regulations and programs. Customer is not required to pay the Administrative Expense Fee if it demonstrates to the Company's reasonable satisfaction that it meets the requirements to be exempt and such exemption is available in the specific jurisdiction. Regulatory taxes, fees and surcharges may apply to the Administrative Expense Fee (including but not limited to the FSUF in the United States).

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