



How to Obtain an Internet Service Provider (ISP) License in Nigeria: A Comprehensive Guide

Description

In Nigeria's rapidly expanding digital landscape, establishing an Internet Service Provider (ISP) business presents a lucrative opportunity. However, to operate legally, obtaining the appropriate license from the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) is mandatory. This comprehensive guide outlines the step-by-step process, requirements, and costs involved in securing an ISP license in Nigeria, ensuring compliance with NCC regulations.

Understanding ISP Licensing in Nigeria

The NCC offers two primary types of licenses:

- **Individual Licenses:** Tailored for specific services like Internet provision, requiring detailed applications and subject to NCC's discretion.
- **Class Licenses:** Applicable to general services, granted upon meeting predefined criteria.

ISPs typically require an Individual License due to the specific nature of internet services.

Step-by-Step Guide to Obtaining an ISP License

1. Company Registration

Ensure your business is registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) in Nigeria. Foreign entities must register locally to be eligible for licensing.

2. Prepare Required Documentation

Compile the following documents:

- Certificate of Incorporation
- Tax Clearance Certificate
- Certified True Copy of Memorandum and Articles of Association
- Feasibility Report of Proposed Service
- Evidence of Funding for the Project
- Passport Photographs of Authorised Representative and Directors
- Utility Bill of Company's Official Address
- Certified True Copy of Form CO7 or Status Report (List of Company Directors)

3. Online Application Submission

Visit the NCC's Licensing Application Management System at eservices.ncc.gov.ng.

- Create an account and complete the application form.

- Upload all required documents.

4. Payment of Administrative Charges

Upon submission, pay a non-refundable administrative charge, typically 5% of the relevant license fee.

5. Application Review and Approval

The NCC reviews applications within 90 days. Successful applicants receive an Offer Letter detailing the license terms and conditions.

Licensing Fees and Validity

License Type	Validity Period
Internet Services License	5 years
Private Network Links License	10 years

Note: Fees are subject to change; confirm current rates with the NCC.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1: Can individuals apply for an ISP license?

No, only registered corporate entities are eligible to apply for an ISP license in Nigeria.

Q2: What happens if I operate without a license?

Operating without a valid license is illegal and may result in a fine of ₦5,000,000, plus ₦500,000 for each day the violation continues.

Q3: Are foreign companies eligible for licensing?

Yes, but they must first register with the CAC and obtain necessary permits from relevant Nigerian authorities.

Q4: How long does the licensing process take?

The NCC aims to process applications within 90 days, provided all requirements are met.

Common Misconceptions

- **Misconception:** Any business can provide internet services without a license.

Reality: Providing internet services without an NCC license is illegal and punishable by law.

- **Misconception:** Licensing is only for large corporations.

Reality: Any registered company, regardless of size, must obtain the appropriate license to operate legally.

Conclusion

Securing an ISP license in Nigeria involves a structured process governed by the NCC. By adhering to the outlined steps and ensuring compliance with all requirements, businesses can legally provide internet services, contributing to Nigeria's digital growth.

For the most current information and assistance, visit the [NCC's official website](#) or consult with legal experts specialising in telecommunications law.

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