Business Licence Rate Card

What is a Professional Employee?

The number of professional employees, on which the licence fee is based should include employees, contracted workers and consultants in the following categories based on the Standard Occupational Classifications published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS):

Group 1

Managers and Senior Officials

Group 2

Professional Occupations

Group 3

Associate Professional and Technical Occupations

Please go to: cla.co.uk/ons-soc-guidance for further information on Standard Occupational Classifications (SOCs)

Indemnity for Past Copying

Fees for backdating your licence to cover past copying will be calculated at the rate applicable to the current year for each year that the licence is backdated.

For more information about the indemnity please see the licence terms and conditions.

Rates effective April 2026

Business Licence fees are charged according to the number of employees and your business SIC code. To find the applicable rate, follow 3 easy steps, then work out what you will pay with a simple calculation.

Step 1 – Check your employee numbers

Rates for Small Businesses with 1-50 employees

Businesses employing up to 50 employees are subject to CLA's small business fees, based on the total employees of the business.

The annual fee for businesses with 1-10 total employees is £190.13 + VAT

The annual fee for businesses with 11-50 total employees is £650.22 + VAT

Rates for Businesses with 51+ employees

Businesses employing 51+ employees are charged per professional employee according to the SIC codes of the main business activity, subject to a minimum annual charge of £650.22 + VAT.

If your business has 51+ professional employees, please follow Step 2 and Step 3.

Step 2 – Find your SIC Code

A Standard Industrial Classification code, (SIC code) describes the main business activity of a company and these are published on the website of Companies House.

Step 3 – Look up your rate

If you have 51+ employees and know your SIC code, please use the rate table below to identify your annual fee per professional employee:

SIC	SUBSECTOR	Annual fee per professional employee +VAT
01-03	Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	£19.40
05-09	Mining and Quarrying	£38.60
10-12	Manufacture of Food, Drink and Tobacco	£57.77
13-15	Manufacture of Textiles, clothing and leather products	£38.60
16-17	Manufacture of wood, pulp and paper and paper products	£38.60
18	Printing and reproduction of recorded media	£38.60
19	Refined petroleum and coke	£57.77
20	Chemicals and chemical products	£57.77
21	Pharmaceutical	£66.41
22	Rubber and plastic products	£57.77
23	Manufacture of non-metallic mineral products	£38.60
24	Manufacture of basic-materials	£38.60

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SIC	SUBSECTOR	Annual fee per professional employee +VAT
25	Manufacture of fabricated metal products	£38.60
26	Computer, electronic and optical products	£38.60
27	Manufacture of electrical equipment	£57.77
28	Manufacture of machinery and equipment	£38.60
29	Manufacture of motor vehicles	£57.77
30	Manufacture of other transport equipment	£19.40
31	Manufacture of furniture	£38.60
32	Other manufacturing	£38.60
33	Repair and installation of machinery and equipment	£57.77
35	Electricity, gas supply, steam supply	£57.77
36	Water Collection, treatment and supply	£57.77
37	Sewerage	£19.40
38	Wate activities	£19.40
39	Remediation activities	£19.40
41	Construction of buildings	£19.40
42	Civil Engineering	£19.40
43	Specialised construction activities	£38.60
45	Motor vehicles sale and repair	£19.40
46	Wholesale	£14.51
47	Retail	£14.51
49	Land transport	£19.40
50	Water transport	£19.40
51	Air transport	£19.40
52	Support activities for transportation	£19.40
53	Postal and courier activities	£57.77
55	Accommodation	£14.51
56	Bars and restaurants	£19.40
58	Publishing activities	£38.60
59	Motion picture, video, TV programme, sound	£28.84
60	Programming and broadcasting	£38.60
61	Telecommunications	£57.77
62	Computer programming, consultancy and related activities	£57.77
63	Information service activities	£38.60
64	Financial service activities	£37.27
65	Insurance, reinsurance and pensions	£37.27
66	Activities auxilary to financial services and insurance activities	£37.27
68	Real estate activities	£19.40
69.1	Legal activities	£43.49

SIC	SUBSECTOR	Annual fee per professional employee +VAT
69.2	Accounting, bookkeeping and auditing	£37.27
70.1	Activities of head offices	£38.60
70.21	Public relations and communication	£28.84
70.22	Business and Management consultancy	£38.60
71	Architectural and engineering activities	£38.60
72	Scientific research and development	£57.77
73	Advertising and market research	£28.84
74.1	Specialised design	£38.60
74.2	Photographic activities	£38.60
74.3	Translation and interpretation	£38.60
74.9	Other professional, scientific and technical activities	£38.60
75	Veterinary Activities	£66.41
77	Rental and leasing activities	£19.40
78	Employment activities	£38.60
79	Travel agents	£19.40
80	Security and investigation activities	£38.60
81	Services to buildings and landscape activities	£19.40
82	Business support	£38.60
84	Defence	£57.77
85	Education	£19.40
86	Human Health	£66.41
87	Residential care activities	£22.33
88	Social work activities without accommodation	£22.33
90	Creative, arts and entertainment	£28.84
91	Libraries, archives, museums and other cultural activities	£28.84
92	Gambling and betting	£28.84
93	Sports, amusement and recreation activities	£28.84
94	Membership organisations	£19.40
95	Repair of computers and personal and Household goods.	£19.40
96	Other personal service activities	£19.40
97-98	Activities of Households	£19.40
99	Activities of Extraterritorial Organisations and Bodies	£19.40
N/A	Charity	£19.40

To work out how much you will pay, make a simple calculation based on the example:

If you are a Programming and broadcasting business (SIC 60) with 50 professional employees your fee is calculated as 50 x £38.60 (SIC 60 rate) = £1,930.00 + VAT.