

Restaurant Music Compliance Checklist

A simple audit to confirm your restaurant is legally licensed and risk-free.

Why This Matters

Music affects ambience and guest experience. It is also copyrighted material. Restaurants must use properly licensed sources or risk fines, compliance letters, and inconsistent sound across locations.

1. Where Music Can Play

Identify all areas in your restaurant where guests or staff hear music.

- Dining room
- Bar
- Patio or outdoor seating
- Lobby or entry
- Restrooms
- Private dining or event rooms
- Back-of-house

2. How the Music Is Played

Document the devices pushing audio into each space.

- Ceiling or wall speakers
- Sonos or wireless speakers
- Bluetooth speakers
- TVs or cable boxes
- Tablets, laptops, or staff phones

3. What the Music Source Is

List what is actually playing the music in each zone.

High-risk or unlicensed sources:

- Spotify, Apple Music, YouTube Music
- YouTube videos
- Staff playlists or personal accounts
- Staff phones via Bluetooth
- Radio stations
- Cable TV audio

Licensed sources:

- Licensed music for business provider

4. Who Controls the Music

Clarify who can change or influence what plays.

- Can staff connect their phones
- Can managers switch playlists
- Are zones controlled individually or centrally
- Are settings locked or unrestricted
- Does control vary by shift or by location

Many compliance issues happen because staff improvise during busy hours.

Need clarity on music licensing or what your restaurant needs?

Live music must be licensed directly with the PROs, but your background music can be fully covered through Custom Channels. We provide licensed, curated, and consistent music built for restaurants. Reach out if you want help getting compliant.