



**KNYSNA WOODMILL
LANE FM RADIO
ANNUAL
COMPLIANCE REPORT**

MARCH 2025

2023/2024 BROADCASTING COMPLIANCE ANNUAL REPORT

Wave Broadcasting and Entertainment (Pty) Ltd
known as
Knysna Woodmill Lane FM Radio

Licence Period: 31 August 2020 – 30 August 2025

1. PREFACE

The Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (“Authority”) has a statutory mandate in terms of the Constitution, the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa Act¹ (“ICASA Act”) and the Electronic Communications Act² (“ECA”) to regulate broadcasting activities in South Africa in the public interest. Among the responsibilities of the Authority is the task to ensure compliance by broadcasters with the terms and conditions of their licence, Legislation and relevant regulations.

This report seeks to give an account of Knysna Woodmill Lane FM Radio’s compliance with the terms and conditions, as set out in its license, in the financial year that ended March 2024. In addition, this report will measure the Licensee’s compliance with all applicable regulations for the year under review.

2. BACKGROUND

Knysna Woodmill Lane FM Radio is a low-power Licensee with a 5-year term expiring in August 2025. The Licensee’s mandate is to provide a commercial low-power broadcasting service to Woodmill Lane Shopping Centre in Knysna, a town 500 kilometres east of Cape Town in the Western Cape.

¹ The ICASA Act No, 13 of 2000.

² Act No, 36 of 2005.

3. COMPLIANCE ASSESSMENT

3.1 Licensee

Clause 1 of Knysna Woodmill Lane FM Radio's service licence³ provides that:

"The Licence is issued to:

- 1.1 Name of Entity: Wave Broadcasting and Entertainment (Pty) Ltd*
- 1.2 Name of the Station: Knysna Woodmill Lane FM Radio*
- 1.3 Control of the Licensee: Control shall vest in the governing body of Wave Broadcasting and Entertainment (Pty) Ltd."*

The Licensee reported no changes to the controlling structure of the entity or the company name in the year currently under review.

The Licensee complies with clauses 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 of its licence.

3.2 Licence Area

Clause 3 of the licence prescribes as follows:

"The Licensee shall provide a commercial low power broadcasting service to Woodmill Lane Shopping Centre, Knysna as set out in the Licensee's radio frequency spectrum licence."

In the year under review, the Authority received no reports or complaints indicating that the radio station has interfered in areas that are outside its coverage area.

The Licensee complies with clause 3 of its licence.

3.3 Community

Clause 4 of the licence provides as follows:

"The Licensee shall provide commercial low-power broadcasting services aimed at tourism and business with the shopping centre as determined by the licence".

³ Knysna Woodmill Lane FM Radio service and spectrum licences.

Knysna Woodmill Lane FM prides itself as a radio station that is “*niched for tourism and business development*”. The Licensee is placed to specifically support the tourism industry in and around the Garden Route. The Authority’s monitoring exercise found that the Licensee’s profile bulks on exposing local businesses to those visiting the area.

A suspicion around broadcasting to another shopping centre or area outside “*the shopping centre as determined by the licence*” was identified in the last reporting cycle.

Before the Authority could investigate the extent, Knysna Woodmill Lane admitted after reading the report to sharing content with MC 90.3 FM Plettenberg Bay. At the time of writing this report, the Licensee was still to submit a detailed schedule indicating the shows and time slots they share with MC 90.3 FM Plettenberg Bay. Nevertheless, Knysna Woodmill Lane FM provides services aimed at both tourism and business within the shopping centre.

The Licensee complies with clause 4 of the Licence.

3.4 Programming

Clause 5.1 of the licence provides that the Licensee shall provide programming as follows:

3.4.1 Local News and Information:

“Clause 5.1.1: The Licensee shall not be obliged to broadcast news and actuality programmes but may broadcast programmes on current affairs and issues affecting the community and tourism within the centre.”

A 2021 amendment of the Standard Terms and Conditions for Class Licensee’s provided a contrasting obligation to clause 5.1.1 of this licence. Regulation 10B (1) of the Standard Terms and Conditions provided an explicit instruction: “A Low Power Sound Broadcasting Service licensee must not provide news and current affairs programming.” In the past reporting year, the Authority found that Knysna Woodmill Lane featured a

slot that was titled "Knysna 97.0 FM and MC 90.3 FM Garden Route Radio News Flash". The make-up of the identified show was that of a news bulletin and as such was recorded as non-compliance.

In the year under review, the Authority's monitoring exercise found a more casual "Information Session" in the same slot that carried the "Garden Route News Flash". The session would carry some news items which would be packaged as information sharing. These news items were mostly about happenings in and around the garden route.

On the basis that Knysna Woodmill Lane took to heart the findings of the last compliance report and corrected its errors, **the Licensee complies with regulation 10B(1) of the Standard Terms and Conditions for Class Licensees.**

Clause 5.1.2 South African Music Content: 40%

Knysna FM is mostly a music radio station with around eighty percent (80%) of its content mainly music. Last Year's reporting found that the Licensee's music scheduling profiled mostly American Rock Music. The Authority's monitoring argued that at least 1 South African Music item was found in every 20 songs played by Knysna Woodmill Lane. This was calculated at around five percent (5%) of South African Music found during the performance period.

Programme recordings that were monitored in the past reporting cycle were a fraction of Licensee's overall programming profile. Some of the negative findings were attributed to the missing information and that the extent of the Licensee's non-compliance could be better, if all information was found during monitoring.

In the year under review, a noticeable improvement in the Licensee's music offering was found. While this improvement is impressive, it still fell below the licensed forty percent (40%) of South African Music and way below the regulated eighty percent (80%).

In its response to the Authority's findings, Knysna FM promised to make strides to rectify its non-compliance by incorporating more South African Music in its programming profile.

In the year under review, **Knysna Woodmill Lane FM failed to comply with the South African Music Obligation.**

Clause 5.1.3 "Talk v Music: 20% Talk and 80% Music"

There is no missing that Knysna Woodmill Lane FM is a music radio station. The monitored programme recordings carried anything from early sixties Blues to late 80s Rock music. The Licensee's programming profile is characterised by "*triple play and back-to-back triple play*" offerings with very little talk in between.

The little talk that was observed during monitoring were the information sessions (environmental information and information around certain events happening in the area), song and artist introductions, radio station identification and advertising.

An 80% music and 20% talk format split is the makeup of Knysna FM's programming.

Knysna FM complies with clause 5.1.3 of its license.

Clause 5.1.4 "Languages of Broadcast:

5.1.4.1 English – 80%; and

5.1.4.2 Afrikaans – 20%."

A monitoring exercise carried out by the Authority on the provided programme recordings could not find any Afrikaans Language on the Licensee's profile.

Knysna FM did not comply with clause 5.1.4 and the sub-clauses.

3.4 Promise of Performance

Clause 8.1 of Knysna FM's licence states that:

"The Licensee will adhere to equal employment principles, which will include the previously disadvantaged communities."

Knysna Woodmill Lane employs a fair amount of people from the previously disadvantaged groups in its workforce. Women and black people were found as on-air staff during monitoring.

In the year under review, the Authority is satisfied with the on-air representation of people from previously disadvantaged groups on Knysna FM.

Clause 8.2 of the Licensee's service licence provides:

"The Licensee will provide training programmes that will include relevant business skills, life skills, language acquisition and communication to its employees."

At the time of compiling this report, the Licensee has not yet submitted its training report save for mentioning that they do take their employees for training whenever necessary. The Licensee also encourages its staff to partake in free training interventions when they are available.

Until a conclusive report on the Licensee's training initiatives, a conclusion on the Licensee's compliance with clause 8.2 cannot be made.

4. REGULATIONS

4.1 ICASA South African Music Content Regulations

Regulation 3 of the ICASA South African Music Content Regulations 2016⁴ stipulates that:

⁴ Appendix B: ICASA South African Music Content Regulations.

"A holder of a community sound broadcasting service licence must ensure that after eighteen (18) months from the date of gazetting of this regulation, a minimum of 60%, increasing by 10% annually to reach 80% of the musical works broadcast in the performance period, consist of South African music and that such South African music is spread evenly throughout the performance period."

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Programme recordings that were monitored in the past reporting cycle were a fraction of the Licensee's overall programming profile. Some of the last reporting year's negative findings were attributed to the missing information and the extent of the Licensee's non-compliance could be better if all information was found during monitoring.

In the year under review, a noticeable improvement in the Licensee's music offering was found. While this improvement is impressive, it still fell below the licensed forty percent (40%) South African Music and way below the regulated eighty percent (80%).

In its response to the Authority's findings, Knysna FM promised to make strides to rectify its non-compliance by incorporating more South African Music in its programming profile.

In the year under review, Knysna Woodmill Lane FM did not comply with the South African Music Obligation.

4.2 Regulations Regarding Standard Terms and Conditions for Class Licensees

Regulation 2 (1) (d) of the Regulations Regarding Standard Terms and Conditions for Class Licensees⁵ provides two fundamental regulations that are constantly and continuously used to measure a Licensee's compliance. The two regulations are Regulation 2(1) and the sub-clauses, along with Regulation 9 in its entirety.

In terms of the provisions made by Regulation 2(1) of the Regulations Regarding Standard Terms and Conditions for Class Licensees; Knysna FM has had no reported changes to its Licensee details and information in the year that is currently under review.

The Licensee submitted all the information that was required of it for the purposes of compiling this report. Compliance with this clause is measured based on the trends in the licensee's information submission.

Knysna FM complies with Regulations 2(1) and 9 of the Standard Terms and Conditions for Class Licensees.

5. CONCLUSION

It is noteworthy that Knysna Woodmill Lane FM did take the previous broadcasting compliance report into account and implemented changes to its programming profile to address the areas of non-compliance. However, there remains a few more areas where the Licensee still falls short to attend to all the Authority's findings. It helps though that Knysna Woodmill Lane is showing a willingness to correct the non-compliance and their efforts are evident in the improvement found by the current reporting cycle's monitoring exercise.

⁵ Appendix C: Regulations regarding the Standard Terms and Conditions.

6. TERMS OF REFERENCE

Appendix A: Knysna FM Broadcasting Service License

Appendix B: Regulations on South African Music Content

Appendix C: Regulations regarding the Standard Terms and Conditions