Set Up Commission Module

SUMMARY

Learn to set up Paperless Pipeline's Commission Module to support your office's specific commission needs.

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Introduction

The Commission Module is an add-on module within Paperless Pipeline that allows you to calculate agent & broker commissions, generate financial and production reports, give agents access to commission statements and reports, and more. After the Commission Module has been activated \rightarrow , it needs to be configured to meet your office's specific commission needs.

This article will walk you through those quick and easy steps, including how to set up*Commission* & CDA Settings, Company Settings, User Settings, and custom Fees and Deductions.

Once you've completed setting up Commission Module,learn to Use Commission Module here →

Who Can Do This?

Only master admins can complete the full setup of Commission Module.

Full Video 🛛

This video will walk you through setting up Commission Module from beginning to end.

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About the Commission Disbursement Authorization (CDA)

One of the useful features of the Commission Module is that it will automatically generate a <u>Commission Disbursement Authorization (CDA)</u> form, sometimes called a Commission Demand Letter, when you manage commission on a transaction.

The CDA document instructs the Title Company, Escrow or Closing Attorney on how to disburse commission for a transaction.



The CDA will be customized with:

- your Company Logo in the header
- an overview of the basic transaction information, including the Sale Price and Gross Commission
- the transaction's Escrow, Closing Attorney or Title CompanyContact information
- a Payable section
- the Signature of the broker or person authorized to sign the document

Here is an example of aCommission Disbursement Authorization (CDA) document:



Commission & CDA Settings

Customize how the commission disbursement form works by configuring*Commission* & *CDA Settings* for each Location in your company's account.

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To set up Commission & CDA Settings for a Location:



2 From the left menu, **click [Manage Locations]**. You'll need to complete the setup for each Location in your account where you plan to manage commission.

3 Click the next to the Location, then [Commission & CDA Settings]. From this page, you'll be able to customize how the form works.

4 Complete the fields as appropriate (described below).

5 Click [Save Settings].

You'll need to complete the setup for each Location in your account where you plan to manage commission.

CDA Payability Settings

CDA Payability Settings determine who commission is paid to. For both agents and referrals, you have the option to instruct Escrow or Title to pay commission to your brokerage or to pay agents / referrers directly.



To set your preferred CDA Payability Settings:

 Check the first box if your brokerage is responsible for disbursing commission to agents. If you prefer Escrow or Title to pay agent commission directly to agents, leave the box unchecked.

2 Check the second box if your brokerage is responsible for disbursing commission to referrals.

If you prefer Escrow or Title to pay referral commission directly to agents, leave the box unchecked.

CDA Signature

Add the signature of the broker or person authorized to sign the CDA.

To add a CDA Signature:

1 Upload the Signature Image.

2 Complete the fields with the Signer's Name, and Signature Text (such as title and company name) that you'd like to appear under the signature.

CDA Signature	
CDA signature image (.jpg or .png file type)	*
Choose File No file chosen CDA signer's name	
Carol Francis	*
CDA signature text	
Broker / Owner Coffee is for Closers Realty	*

Location Contact Info

Add the broker or appropriate company contact information to be displayed in the header of the *CDA*, as shown in this example:

COFFEE IS FOR CLOSERS REALTY, INC.	PP Test Realty, LLC 1300 East Main Street Allen TX 76547 Phone: 555-555-0987
Commission Disburseme	nt Authorization
	nt Authorization
Property Address: 65456 Red Bar	n Lane North Park TX 76374

To add your Location Contact Info:

1 Enter your broker (or appropriate Contact's)Address, and Phone Number.

2 Optionally, enter their Fax or Email.

Location Contact Info	
The Location Contact Info below is shown on the CDA letterhead.	
Address	
1300 East Main Street Allen TX 76547	*
Phone	
555-555-0987	*
Fax	
Email	

Franchise Fee

If your office pays a franchise or corporate fee per transaction, customize your company's Franchise Fee and optionally base the fee on a percentage or flat dollar amount When managing commissions on a transaction, the Franchise Fee will be deducted before the Broker / Agent Disbursement.

To customize your Franchise Fee:

1 If your office does not pay a Franchise Fee per transaction, leave the Franchise fee amount or percent empty.

2 If your office does pay a Franchise Fee per transaction, select [%] or [\$], then enter the Franchise fee amount or percent.

- If the amount varies per transaction, enter 0.
- If the amount is fixed, enter the fixed amount.
- If the amount is based on a percentage of each transaction'sNet Commission amount, enter the percentage amount and select [%].

3 Enter the Franchise Fee custom name.

Franchise Fee	
Franchise fee amount or percent	
2%	% \$
Franchise fee custom name	
Coffee is for Closers Franchise Fee	*

You can edit the *Franchise Fee* amount when you're managing commission on a transaction as needed.

Off-the-Top Deductions

You can optionally collect custom off-the-top Deductions such as B&O, Royalty Fee or State Tax.

To turn on the ability to collect off-the-topDeductions:

1 Check the box next to [Allow off-the-top deductions]. If you do not collect off-the-top deductions, leave the box unchecked.

Off-the-top Deductions

Allow off-the-top deductions

Earnest Money Deposit

You have the option to allow *Earnest Money Deposit* deductions if your brokerage holds earnest money that needs to be credited at closing.

To allow Earnest Money Deposit:



1 Check the box next to [Allow earnest money deposit deduction]. If you do not hold earnest money, leave the box unchecked.

Earnest Money Deposit	
Allow earnest money deposit deduction	

CDA Instructions

Create your own custom text that will appear on the CDA. For example, you can include wiring instructions or details on where the Title Company should mail the commission.

Payables PP Test Realty, LLC	\$14,000.00		
	\$14,000.00		
H Town Realty	\$17,500.00		
Commissions due Coffee is for C	losers should be sent to 123 Main Street Dallas TX 76226.		
Authorized By			
Authorized By			
Carol Fra	neis		
	ncis		

To add CDA Instructions:

1 Enter your desired instructions in CDA instructions (to be shown above Payables) and / or CDA instructions (to be shown below Payables).

CDA Instructions
CDA instructions (to be shown above Payables)
CDA instructions (to be shown below Payables)
Commissions due Coffee is for Closers should be sent to 123 Main Street Dallas TX 76226.
123 Main Street Dallas 1X 76226.

Learn how to Format CDA Special Instructions \rightarrow

You can add or edit these defaultCDA Instructions when you're managing commission on a transaction as needed.

Company Settings []

Configure your commission-related Company Settings to meet your office's specific needs.

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To set up Company Settings:

1 Click [Company Settings] from the left menu of Admin / Settings .

Email Monthly Production Summary to Agents

Opt to automatically email each of your agents a*Monthly Production Summary* including their production details, number of closings, Sales Volume, and commission earned for the last month as well as year-to-date. Learn more about the Monthly Production Summary \rightarrow

To automatically email the Monthly Production Summary to your agents:

1 Under *Email Settings*, check the box next to, [Email Monthly Production Summary to Agents].



Use Start Dates of Agents to Determine Fiscal Years for Year-to-Date Calculations

If your agents are on a commission plan, you may track their year-to-date figures based on their *Start Date.*

To track year-to-date figures based on your agents'Start Dates:

1 Under Financial Settings, click the box next to [Use start date of agents to determine fiscal years for year-to-date calculations].

If you prefer to base year-to-date calculations on the calendar year (January through December), leave the box unchecked.



Use Agent's Commission Split to Calculate Sales Volume

Sales Volume can be automatically allocated based on the agent's share of commission when there are multiple agents on the transaction. When you're managing commissions on a transaction, you'll have the option to edit those pre-allocated *Sales Volumes*, as needed.

Financi	al Settings
Use yea	e start dates of agents to determine fiscal years for ar-to-date calculations
🖌 Use	e agent's commission split to calculate sales volume
Broker N	Name for Commission Disbursement

To automatically allocate *Sales Volume* based on the agent's *Commission Split* when there are multiple agents on a transaction:

1 Check the box next to [Use agent's commission split to calculate sales volume]

For example, if two agents are splitting the commission 50% on a home that sold for \$500,000, the system will divide the *Sales Volume* 50% and allocate \$250,000 to each agent. This will default the *Sales Volume* amount to accurately reflect the total *Sales Volume* of \$500,000 for the transaction.

Distribute Listing Commiss	ion:		\$13,950.0
Distribute listing gross be	etween 2 agents		
Geoffrey McGee		50%	* % \$
Lucy Curly		50%	* ^ ⊅
Allocate sales volume ar	nd units		_
		Sales Volume	Unit
		\$250,000	0.5
Geoffrey McGee			
,		\$250,000	0.5
,	e splits	\$250,000	0.5
Lucy Curly	e splits Brokerage	\$250,000 Agent	0.5

If you prefer to allocate the full*Sales Price* for each agent as a default, leave the box unchecked.

For example, if the *Sales Price* is \$500,000, each agent will receive \$500,000 in *Sales Volume*. Since \$500,000 is allocated to each agent, the company's *Sales Volume* will reflect \$1,000,000.

Distribute Listing Commissi	on:		\$13,950.0
Distribute listing gross be	tween 2 agents		
Geoffrey McGee		50%	* % \$
Lucy Curly		50%	* ~ ~
Allocate sales volume an	d units		
		Sales Volume	Unit
Geoffrey McGee		\$500,000	0.5
Lucy Curly		\$500,000	0.5
Specify agent / brokerage	e splits		
Specify agent / brokerage	e splits Brokerage	Agent	

Most offices prefer to check this box so that the companySales Volume reflects the Sales Price.

Broker Name for Commission Disbursement

Customize the Broker Name for Commission Disbursement if your brokerage's share of the commission should be made payable to a name other than your Company Name.

To set the broker's payable name as something other than yourCompany Name:

1 Enter the broker's name. Leave blank to use your*Company Name*.

Financial Settings
Use start dates of agents to determine fiscal years for year-to-date calculations
Use agent's commission split to calculate sales volume
Broker Name for Commission Disbursement
Paperless Realty, LLC

User Settings

Enter your agents' current *Commission Percent*, *Next Commission Split*, and other info, as well as grant admins permission to *Enter Financial Data* and / or *View Financial Reports*.

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To manage user settings:

1 Click [Manage Users] from the left menu of Admin / Settings .

Add Agent's Commission Percent, Cap & Other Info

You can enter your agent's current commission split percentage to allow the system to automatically populate that information when you're managing commissions on a transaction.

To add an Agent's Commission Percent Cap, & Other Infa



1 Click an agent's name to open their profile.



2 Scroll down to the Commission Percent section. If needed, click [+] to expand that section.

3 Complete the desired fields (as described below).

4 Select [Update User] to save.

- Co Da	mmission Percent, Co te	ıp, & Notes,	Payable Cor	p, Start
Com	mission Percent			
%				
Next	Commission Split Thre	shold		
\$				
Comi	nission Notes			
Paya	ole LLC or Corp			
User	Start Date			

Y out N need to complete the setup for each agent.

Commission Percentage

Enter the agent's share of commission in the Commission Percentage field.

Commission Percent 75%

Next Commission Split Threshold

Next Commission Split Threshold tracks how much of an agent's commission needs to be been paid to the brokerage before they'll advance to the next level. If your agents are on a commission plan that allows them to increase to a higher commission split once they've reached their cap, track their Next Commission Split Threshold to allow the system to warn you when the agent has or is about reach their cap.

To set an agent's Next Commission Split Threshold:



1 Enter the agent's Next Commission Split Threshold. If your agents are not on a commission plan, leave the field blank.

Next Commission Split Threshold \$20,000.00

For example, if your agent is on a 75% commission split until they've paid the broker \$20,000 of commission, you would enter \$20,000 in this field. Once the broker has earned \$20,000, the system will warn you that the agent has or is about to reach their cap.

Calculated Commission Amo	ounts						
Commission Type Listing							
Gross Commission: \$56,000.00							
Royalty: \$3,920.00							
Distributable Commission	(Gross - Referral - R	ovalty):	s	52,080.00	0		
					This transaction's commission may push the agen commission split threshold.	t over their ne	
Next, we will help you dist	tribute the broker/agen	t commission of \$52,08	0.00.			00,0000)	
			r elle r	Den Char	George Payne - YTD figures (Feb. 21, 2022 to March	29, 2022)	
			Ealt F	Prev Step	Agent performance		
Broker / Agent Commission Disbursement					Closed transactions:		
loker / Agent Commissi	on Disbuisement				Closed listings:		
Distribute Listing Commissio				52.080.00	Closed sales: Units:		
Distribute Listing Commissio	on.		3	52,080.00	Sales volume:	\$1,766,45	
Distribute listing gross be	tween 2 agents				Commission split threshold info	• 1,7 • • • 7, • •	
				_	Agent's current split:		
Angie Oul		50%	*	% \$	Commission to brokerage before this		
George Payne		50%	*		transaction:	\$12,60	
					Next commission split threshold:	\$20,00	
Allocate sales volume and	dunits	Sales Volume	Un	14	Agent start date:	Feb. 21,	
Angie Oul		\$140.000	0.9		Commission totals before this transaction		
*		\$14,000	0.5		Commission produced before agent/broker split	\$50,43	
George Payne		\$14,000		0	Agent gross commission:	\$37,82	
Specify agent / brokerage	splits				Agent net commission:	\$22,48	
opeenty agent / brokerage	Brokerage	Agent			Agent gross in-house referral commission:	\$	
Angie Oul	30%	70%	*	% \$	Fees paid to brokerage		
George Payne	25%	75% I	*	% \$	FMLS Fee:	\$14,59	
		_ · _ ·			Administrative Fee:	\$54	
		Calcul	ate & (Continue	Transaction Fee:	\$20	
					Commission notes for George Payne		
					75/25 split up to \$20k		
					90/10 split after \$20k		
					Collect \$140 TX Fee from Agent		
Broker's Fees & Deduc	tions				<u>Update commission split for George Payne →</u>		

Commission Notes

Enter any Commission Notes such as the agent's commission plan or fee reminders. An agent's Commission Notes are displayed next to their name when managing commissions on a transaction.

To add an agent's Commission Notes:

1 Enter the agent's *Commission Notes*. If your agents are not on a commission plan, leave the field blank.

(Commission Notes
	75/25 split up to \$20k 90/10 split after \$20k Collect \$140 TX Fee from Agent
l	

Payable, LLC or Corp

Set an agent's *Payable*, *LLC or Corp* if your agents are paid directly at closing and their payable name should show as their *Company Name* (or a name other than their *First* and *Last Name*).

To set an agent's Payable Name:

1 Enter the agent's Payable LLC or Corp. If the agent's payable should be made to their first and last name, leave the field blank.

Payable LLC or Corp	
GP Realty, LLC.	

User Start Date

It is especially important to enter agents'*Start Dates* if you are tracking their year-to-date figures based on their anniversary date.

To add an agent's Start Date:

1 Enter or select the agent's *Start Date*.

User Start Date 02/21/2019 **Grant Financial Permissions to Admins**

Grant certain admins permission to manage commissions and / or view reports.

To grant financial permissions to an admin:



1 From Manage Users , **click the admin's name**.



2 Scroll down to the User Permissions section.

3 Check the box next to your desired financial permissions for the admin in each desired Location.



User Permissions
User Permissions
Grant permissions below to control the specific actions this user may perform in the selected office location.
+ Account-wide Permissions
- Allen
Transactions
Create transactions
Change listing/selling agents of own transaction
Change transaction status
View all transactions for this location (admin-level permission)
Documents
Upload docs
Assign docs to transactions
Review docs (admin-level permission)
Mark docs as entered (admin-level permission)
Delete any docs in this location (admin-level permission)
Checklists
Assign checklist templates to transactions
Fully manage checklists and templates (admin-level permission)
Financials
Enter financial data (admin-level permission)
View financial reports (admin-level permission)
Other
Create users and locations (admin-level permission)
+ Paperless Real Estate
+ Bluffington Office

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Both financial permissions are admin-level permissions and should not be given to agents as it will give them access to other agents' financial information.

Repmissions are based on Location. If you would like an admin to have permissions in multiple Locations, expand each Location and grant desired permissions within each.

Enter Financial Data

Allow admins permission to Enter Financial Data (generate Commission Disbursement Authorizations) for a Location.

To grant an admin permission to Enter Financial Data:

1 For each desired location, check the box next to [Enter financial data (admin-level permission)].

View Financial Reports

Allow admins permission to View Financial Reports for a Location.

To grant an admin permission to View Financial Reports:

1 For each desired location, check the box next to [View financial reports (admin-level permission)].

Fees & Deductions

Set up your company's custom Fees and Deductions.

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Agent Fees

Agent Fees are fees paid to the brokerage from an agent's commission.

To add agent fees:

People	Manage Agent Fee	es					
Manage Locations Manage Users	Enter the different types of agent i commission. Default fee amounts these fees when managing comm Learn more here →						
Customize							
Company Settings	Agent Fees						
Transaction Statuses	Fee Name	Default F Amount	ee	Fee % Basis			
Transaction Labels	Unused fee	\$	% \$	Select % Basis	×		
Document Labels	Unused fee	\$	% \$		~		
Document Names Lead Sources	Unused fee	\$	% \$		Ŧ		
- Templates	Unused fee	\$	% \$		Ŧ		
Business Holidays	Unused fee	\$	% \$		Ψ		
Checklists	Unused fee	\$	% \$		Ŧ		
Break Apart Docs	Unused fee	\$	% \$		÷		
Financials	Unused fee	\$	% \$		~		
Agent Fees	Unused fee	\$	% \$	Select % Basis	Ψ		
Client Fees	Unused fee	\$	% \$		Ψ		
Deductions	If you run out spaces for fees	, click Save to add more.					
Commission Basis	Save Settings						

1 Go to the Agent Fees page in Pipeline.

2 For each fee, type the fee name in the Fee Name column.

3 In the *Default Fee Amount* column, **enter the standard amount for the fee.** The amount you enter here will be inserted for that fee when managing commissions on transactions. You can change the amount during that process for any individual transaction, if needed.

-if the agent fee varies from transaction to transaction, leave the fee amount blank.

4 **Choose** [%] or [\$] to specify whether your default amount will be based on a percent or dollar amount.

5 If you selected the [%] option, select the *Fee* % *Basis* in the next column to specify the value on which to calculate the percentage.

Fees can be automatically calculated based on a percentage of *Gross Commission*, *Sale Price*, *Distributable Commission*, *Broker Gross*, *Agent Gross*, or *Gross Commission less Referral*.

6 Click [Save Settings].

Client Fees

<u>Client Fees</u> are fees paid by buyers or sellers outside of normal commissions.*Client Fees* can be paid directly to the brokerage or agent on the transaction. Some examples of *Client Fees* include agent bonuses, state fees, or taxes or transaction fees charged to clients.

To add client fees:

1 Go to the Client Fees page in Pipeline.

People	Manage Client Fe	es O		
Manage Locations	Client Fees			
Manage Users	Fee Name	Default Fee Amount	Fee % Basis	
Customize	Unused fee	\$ % \$	Select % Basis 🔹	
Company Settings	Unused fee	\$ % \$	Select % Basis 🔹	
Transaction Statuses	Unused fee	\$ % \$	Select % Basis 🔹	
Transaction Labels	Unused fee	\$ % \$	Select % Basis 🔹	
Document Labels	Unused fee	\$ % \$	Select % Basis 🔹	
Document Names	Unused fee	\$ % \$		
Lead Sources	Unused fee	\$ % \$		
Templates	Unused fee	\$ % \$		
Business Holidays	Unused fee	\$ % \$		
Checklists	Unused fee	\$ % \$		
Break Apart Docs	f) If you run out spaces for fee			
Financials		es, click save to dua more.		
Agent Fees	Save Settings			
Client Fees				
Deductions				
Commission Basis				

- 2 For each fee, type the fee name in the Fee Name column.
- 3 In the *Default Fee Amount* column, **enter the standard amount for the fee.** The amount you enter here will be inserted for that fee when managing commissions on transactions. You can change the amount during that process for any individual transaction, if needed.

 $\int \int dt dt dt$ client fee varies from transaction to transaction, leave the fee amount blank.

- 4 Choose [%] or [\$] to specify whether your default amount will be based on a percent or dollar amount.
- ⁵ If you selected the [%] option, select the fee percent basis the next column to specify the value on which to calculate the percentage.

6 Click [Save Settings].

When managing commissions on transactions later, default fee amounts will auto-populate but can be updated or deleted as needed.

Deductions

<u>Deductions</u> are fees that can be taken off-the-top before the broker-agent split or paid directly from the broker or agent share of commission. Some examples of *Deductions* include Charitable Contributions, Client Rebates, MLS Fees, Home Warranty Fees, or payments to an in-house user such as an assistant or transaction coordinator.

• Off-the-top Deductions can be used to pay money to the broker, in-house agents or third parties.

 Regular Deductions paid from the broker or agent's share of commission can be paid to inhouse agents or third parties.

To add deductions:



- People	Manage Deduction	ns 🛛		
Manage Locations	Deductions			
Manage Users	Deduction Name	Default Amount	Deduction % Basis	
	Unused fee	\$ % \$	Select % Basis 🔹	
- Customize	Unused fee	\$ % \$	Select % Basis 🔹	
Company Settings	Unused fee	\$ % \$	Select % Basis 🔹	
Transaction Statuses	Unused fee	\$ % \$	Select % Basis 🔹	
Transaction Labels				
Document Labels	Unused fee	\$ % ⊈		
Document Names	Unused fee	\$ % \$	Select % Basis 🔹	
Lead Sources	Unused fee	\$ % \$	Select % Basis 🔹 👻	
Templates	Unused fee	\$ % \$	Select % Basis 🔹	
Business Holidays	Unused fee	\$ % \$	Select % Basis 🔹	
Checklists	Unused fee	\$ % \$	Select % Basis 🔹	
Break Apart Docs	1 If you run out spaces for dedu	uctions, click Save to add more.		
- Financials	Save Settings			
Agent Fees				
Client Fees				
Deductions				
Commission Basis				

2 For each deduction, **type the deduction name in theDeduction Name column.**

In the Default Amount column, enter the standard amount for the deduction. The amount you enter here will be inserted for that deduction when managing commissions on transactions. You can change the amount during that process for any individual transaction, if needed.

If the deduction varies from transaction to transaction, leave the deduction amount blank.

4 **Choose [%] or [\$]** to specify whether your default amount will be based on a percent or dollar amount.

5 If you selected the [%] option, select the deduction percent basis the next column to specify the value on which to calculate the percentage.

• Off-the-top (OTT) Deductions can be calculated as a percentage of Gross Commission or Sale Price.

 Regular Deductions can be calculated as a percentage of Gross Commission, Sale Price, Distributable Commission, Broker Gross, Agent Gross, or Gross Commission less Referral Commission.

6 Click [Save Settings].

When managing commissions on transactions later, default deduction amounts will auto-populate but can be updated or deleted as needed.

 \underline{O} nce you complete the Commission Module setup, you're ready to start using the Commission Module. Learn how to Use Commission Module here \rightarrow