DOMAIN POLICY

VERSION 1.0

1.   Domain Name Format

1.1   Registry TLD domains can contain the English-language letters A through Z, the digits 0 through 9 and hyphens (LDH -- Letters, Digits, Hyphens). Hyphens however cannot be used for the first or last character of the second level domain name. Spaces and special characters (such as !, $, &, ë, and so on) are not currently acceptable. The minimum length allowed for a second level registry TLD domain is effectively 3 characters after considering that all 2-Character and 1-Character domains are designated as reserved names based on the ICANN Reserved Names in the registry TLD Reserved Names Policy. The maximum number of LDH characters accepted for a second level domain is 63. Such a limitation is defined by the technical requirements defined by the IETF (Internet Engineering Task Force) for the Internet DNS.

2.   Password Format

2.1   For security reasons, the domain name password must conform to the following requirements:

- It must be between 6 and 20 characters;
- It must contain either digit (0-9), special characters (#$-) and alphabet (a-zA-Z);

3.   Domain Registration Period

3.1.   The minimum registration period for a domain name is one (1) year. The maximum registration period for a domain name is ten (10) years.

3.2.   **Active Period**
A domain name becomes ACTIVE immediately upon being registered, meaning that it is no longer available for registration. The WHOIS record of the newly registered domain is created upon registration. A domain name can be active for 1-10 years depending on the duration of the registration term selected by the registrant. A domain name can be transferred from one registrar to another while it is in ACTIVE state. The domain will have OK status.

3.3   **Registry-Lock**

This condition can only be set by the registry. A domain name with this status cannot be transferred, modified or deleted by its registrar. The domain can however be renewed. The domain will be resolvable as it is included in the registry zone files if the domain has been delegated to at least one name server.   The   domain   will   have   serverTransferProhibited, serverUpdateProhibited, serverDeleteProhibited statuses.

3.4 Registry-Hold

This condition can only be set by the registry. A domain with this status cannot be transferred, modified or deleted by its registrar. The domain can however be renewed. The domain will not be resolvable as it is not included in the registry zone files. The domain will have serverHold Status.

3.5 Renewal

A domain name can be renewed up to a maximum period of 10 years. The following are the rules that govern the renewal of a domain name:

- The request to renew a domain name should contain the Period parameter to identify the number of years to be added to the registration. If not provided, the system provides a default one year renewal.
- The request to renew a domain name must contain the current expiration date. This is required to ensure that repeated attempts to retry this command do not result in multiple successful renewals.
- The system renews the domain name for the period specified by the registrar. If the domain name renewal is completed successfully, the system returns the new registration expiration date in the response.
- The number of years requested plus the time of the remaining registration period cannot exceed 10 years. Registration periods are capped at 10 years per the agreements between The Registry and ICANN. Any attempt to create a registration period longer than 10 years will be rejected with an error response code. For example, if a registration has 18 months remaining until expiration and 9 years are requested for the renewal, the request would be rejected. The resulting period would be 10 years and 6 months - this is not allowed because it is greater than 10 years.

4.   Grace Period

Grace periods are available for billable EPP commands to account for errors and support the auto-renewal model. The applicable grace period information is returned in the domain info EPP XML response.

4.1   Add Grace Period

The Add Grace Period is a specified number of calendar days following the initial registration of the domain. The proposed Add Grace Period is **5** calendar days. The domain could be in OK or prohibited statuses.

If a Delete, Renew, or Transfer operation occurs within the 5 calendar days, the following rules shall apply:

•   **Delete**. If a domain name is deleted within the Add Grace Period, the sponsoring registrar will be refunded the amount of the registration fee. The domain name is immediately deleted from the registry database and available for registration by any registrar. If a domain name is deleted after the 5 calendar day grace period expires, it will be placed in the Redemption Period Status for 30 calendar days and then deleted via the system after going through a 5 calendar day Pending Delete Period.

•   **Renew**. If a domain name is renewed within the Add Grace Period, there will be no grace period credit for the registration fee. In addition to the initial registration charge, the sponsoring registrar will be charged for the number of years the domain name is renewed up to a maximum resulting registration period of not more than 10 years.

•   **Transfer**. A domain name may not be transferred within the Add Grace Period. Registrants are prohibited from changing registrars within the first 60 days of the initial registration of the domain name.

4.2   Add Grace Period Consensus Policy

If a domain is deleted within the Add Grace Period, the sponsoring registrar is credited for the amount of the registration fee. However, the Add Grace Period Consensus Policy limits the number of deletes within the grace period that are allowed per registrar. It is the intention of this Policy is to limit the behavior known as "domain tasting" through modifications to the Add Grace Period (AGP) process.

The Add Grace Period Consensus Policy can be found on the ICANN website at http://www.icann.org/en/tlds/agp-policy-17dec08-en.htm

The Registry will not offer any refund to an ICANN accredited registrar for any domain names deleted during the AGP that exceed (i) 10% of that registrar's net new registrations (calculated as the total number of domain name registrations of one-year through ten-year registrations) in that month, or (ii) fifty (50) domain names, whichever is greater, unless an exemption has been granted by the registry. The calculation will be done automatically by the system.

A registrar may seek an exemption from the registry from the application of such restrictions in a specific month under special circumstances. A report would have to be presented to the registry by the registrar requesting for the exemption stating the circumstances and that the registrar was unable to prevent the deletions from taking place. The acceptance of any exemption will be at the sole discretion of the registry. Special circumstances which reoccur regularly for the same registrar most probably will not be deemed acceptable and will be rejected as a reason.

Example:

If a registrar has 1,000 net new registrations, had its account with the registry auto-debited for US$5,000 (based on a price of US$5 per domain name registration), and had 250 AGP deletes, the Registrar would be entitled to a refund of US$500 for 100 AGP deletes (10% of 1,000 net new registrations at US$5 per domain name registration). The registrar would not be eligible for a refund of US$750 for the additional 150 deletes made.

4.3   Renew Grace Period

The Renew Grace Period is a specified number of calendar days following the renewal/extension of a domain name registration period.   The proposed Renew Grace Period is **5** calendar days. The domain could be in OK or prohibited statuses.

If a Delete, Renew, or Transfer occurs within that 5 calendar days, the following rules apply:

- **Delete**: If a domain name is deleted within the Renew Grace Period, the sponsoring registrar will be refunded the renewal fee. The domain then enters the Redemption Grace Period unless the deletion occurs during the 5 day Add Grace Period.

- **Renew** A domain name can be renewed up to a total of 10 years. If a domain name is renewed within the Renew Grace Period, there will be no grace period credit for the renewal fee. The sponsoring registrar will be charged the renewal fee for each of the additional number of years the domain name is renewed.

- **Transfer**: If a domain name is transferred within the Renew Grace Period, the number of years that was renewed for the domain name will still be valid.

If a domain name is deleted and then restored or if a domain name transfer is approved or auto-approved [within the grace period], then the domain name is no longer considered to be in the renew grace period.

4.4   Transfer Grace Period

The Transfer Grace Period is a specified number of calendar days following the completion of a domain name transfer. The proposed Transfer Grace Period is 5 calendar days. The domain could be in OK or prohibited status.
If a Delete, Renew, or Transfer operation occurs within the 5 calendar days, the following rules apply:

- **Delete**. If a domain is deleted within the Transfer Grace Period, the sponsoring registrar **will be refunded** the transfer fees.

- **Renew**. If a domain is renewed within the Transfer Grace Period, there will be no grace period credit for the transfer fee. In addition to the transfer fee, the registrar will be charged for the number of years the registration is renewed resulting in a registration period of not more than 10 years.

- **Transfer.** A domain can be transferred to another registrar within the Transfer Grace Period. There will be no refund for the transfer fees**.** The gaining registrar will be charged for the transfer fee.

If a domain is deleted and then restored or if a domain transfer is approved or auto-approved [within the grace period], then it is considered no longer to be in the transfer grace period.

4.5   Auto-renew Grace Period

The Auto-Renew Grace Period is a specified number of calendar days following the completion of the auto-renewal (via batch process) of the domain name. The Auto-Renew Grace Period is **15** calendar days.

If the sponsoring registrar does not renew the domain name prior to its expiration date, the registry automatically renews the domain for 1 year. The renewal of the domain name is executed by the registry system the day prior to the expiration date via a batch process. The sponsoring registrar has 15 calendar days to delete the domain and receive a refund for the domain name renewal fee.

If a Delete, Renew, or Transfer operation occurs within the 15 calendar days, the following rules apply:

- **Delete**. If a domain name is deleted within the Auto-Renew Grace Period, the sponsoring registrar will be refunded the renewal fees.

- **Renew.** A domain name can be renewed up to a total of 10 years. If a domain name is renewed within the Auto-Renew Grace Period, there will be no grace period credit for the renewal fee.

- **Transfer.** If a domain name transfer is approved or auto-approved within the Auto-renewal Grace Period, the losing registrar is refunded the renewal fees.

4.6 *Overlapping Grace Periods*

If an operation is performed that falls into more than one grace period, the actions appropriate for each grace period apply as follows:

- If a domain is deleted within the Add Grace Period and the renew Grace Period, then the registrar is credited the registration and renew amounts, taking into account the number of years for which the registration and renewal were done.

- If several billable operations, including transfers, are performed on a domain and the domain is deleted within the grace periods of each of those operations, only those operations that were performed after the latest successful transfer, including the latest transfer, are credited to the current registrar.

- If a domain is deleted within one or several transfer Grace Periods, then only the current sponsoring registrar is credited for the last transfer amount. For example, if a domain is transferred from Registrar A to Registrar B, and then to Registrar C and finally deleted by Registrar C within the Transfer Grace Period of the first, second, and third transfers, then only the last transfer is credited to Registrar C.

- If several auto-renewal and explicit renew are performed on a domain and the domain is deleted within the grace periods of each of those operations, the auto renew and explicit renew are credited to the current registrar. If the deletion is done after the overlapping renew grace period, no credit will be provided to registrar.

NOTE: There is no special logic for renewals within any grace period. For example, if a domain is renewed within the Transfer Grace Period, then the current registrar's account is debited for the number of years the registration is renewed.

5. Pending Period

Pending Periods are defined as a specified number of calendar days following a specific operation during which certain operations are prohibited. The following subsections define the length of each pending period and the operations that are allowed within each pending period.

5.1   Types of Pending Periods

There are three Pending Periods - Redemption Period, Pending Restore, and Pending Delete.

NOTE: These three periods correspond to the following statuses in EPP – redemptionPeriod, pendingRestore, and pendingDelete.

When a delete domain request is successful, the domain is placed on redemptionPeriod status for 30 days. During this 30-day Redemption Period, the domain can be restored if the registrar submits a successful Restore request and Restore Report.

The successful restore request changes the domain to pendingRestore status and subsequently, the successful Restore Report replaces the pendingRestore status with the ok status

If a domain in pendingRestore status does not have a Restore Report successfully submitted within the 7 day pending period Pending Restore Period, then the domain is moved to the beginning of a new 30 day Redemption Period.

If the domain is not successfully restored within the 30 day Redemption Period, then the domain is changed to pendingDelete status. The domain remains in the Pending Delete Period for 5 days before it is purged and made immediately available for registration.

5.2   Redemption Period

The proposed Redemption Period is **30** calendar days. When a domain name is deleted outside of the Add Grace period, it is placed on redemptionPeriod status for 30 days.

The Redemption Period status does NOT apply to domain names deleted within the 5 day Add Grace Period. If a domain name is deleted within the 5 day Add Grace Period, it is immediately purged from the registry, and immediately made available for registration.

The Redemption Period is designed to help registrars defend against inadvertent deletions. By placing the domain name on Redemption Period status for 30 days, the registrar has sufficient time to become

aware of the deletion and restore the domain name without having to worry about the domain name being purged from the registry.

5.3   Pending Restore Period

The proposed Pending Restore Period is **7** calendar days. A domain stays in the redemptionPeriod status for 30 days OR until a successful RESTORE command places the domain on pendingRestore status.

The domain name stays in pendingRestore status for 7 calendar days or until a Restore Report is received from the Registrar and verified to be complete.

If a domain in pendingRestore status does not have a Restore Report successfully submitted within the 7 day pending period, then the domain is moved to the beginning of a new 30 day Redemption Period.

5.4   Pending Delete Period

The proposed Pending Delete Period is **5** calendar days. A domain name that is deleted outside of the Add Grace Period, and does not have a RESTORE command issued during the 30 day Redemption Period is placed into the Pending Delete Period.

Once a domain enters the Pending Delete Period, it cannot be restored. The domain stays in pendingDelete status for 5 days and then it is purged from the system at the end of the 5 days. It should be noted that no EPP operations can be performed on domains with the pendingDelete status.

5.5   Pending Transfer Period

The proposed Pending Transfer Period is **5** calendar days. A successful TRANSFER REQUEST command will place the domain on pendingTransfer status for 5 days or until the transfer is explicitly approved, rejected, cancelled, or auto-approved.

The sponsoring registrar (also referred to as the losing registrar) has 5 calendar days to approve or reject the request. If the potential winning registrar receives an approve response, then the domain is automatically transferred. If the potential gaining registrar receives a reject response, then the pendingTransfer status is removed. If the potential gaining

registrar does not receive any response by the end of 5 calendar days, then the request is automatically approved.