

Overview of Operational Updates

As mentioned in the Guided Submission form for the Next Round RA Public Comment proceeding, below is a list of proposed operational updates by topic area with the corresponding Next Round RA section reference for each of the changes listed in order of appearance in the Next Round RA.

Topic	Reference	Notes
Clean-Up Changes	Throughout the Next Round RA	ICANN has made various clean-up changes throughout the Next Round RA (e.g., typos, defined terms and/or section references). The first such change is in Section 2.2.
Reserved Names	Section 2.6, Section 2.9, and Specification 5	Updated references from “self-allocate” and “allocate” to “register” where applicable to avoid confusion.
Emergency Transition	Section 2.13	Based on ICANN’s experiences in the Emergency Back-End Registry Operator (EBERO) process, ICANN is proposing updates to the Emergency Transition provisions in furtherance of serving its remit to ensure the security and stability of the DNS. Proposed changes in Section 2.13 create objective triggers to address these experiences, includes a path to temporarily remove a gTLD that is not in use from the root zone as a form of Emergency Transition, and includes a clear path to terminate a gTLD registry agreement if a registry is unable to resume the operation of the gTLD. For readability, ICANN has also created subclauses to this Section 2.13. Note: 2.13(a)(ii) is still under discussion with the RySG.
Personal Data	Section 2.18	Given changes to data processing and protection laws over the years, ICANN has further updated this provision.

Topic	Reference	Notes
SAC074 Incident Reporting	Section 2.19 (new)	Under consideration as it relates to implementation of Board resolution 2018.02.04.07
Brand TLDs	Section 2.22 (new) and Specification 13	Rather than refer to a separate stand-alone Specification, ICANN added new Section 2.22 to effectively incorporate Specification 13 into the Next Round RA. For ease of review, we have marked Specification 13 against the latest version (found here: https://www.icann.org/en/registry-agreements/related-materials#specification-13).
TLD Nameservers	Sections 3.3, 3.4, and 3.5	Updated provision to reflect the current URL, the current process for Registry Operators to update their gTLD nameservers, and clean up changes to clarify the entity performing the action. ICANN made similar changes in Sections 3.4 and 3.5 and elsewhere in the Next Round RA to clarify the entity performing the corresponding actions.
Renewal	Section 4.2	ICANN is proposing improvements to the termination and dispute resolution provisions to ensure the funding ICANN receives from registries in good standing is not spent on uncontested disputes. The changes made to these sections retain the substantive rights of Registry Operators and serve to differentiate between an engaged registry and a disengaged registry. Note that the renewal provisions and termination by Registry Operator provisions were updated to align with the changes made to termination by ICANN provisions. Further note changes to Section 4.5 (and variations thereof) are intended solely as clarification as to ICANN's current
Termination by ICANN	Section 4.3	
Termination By Registry Operator	Section 4.4	
Transition Upon Termination	Section 4.5	
Dispute Resolution	Sections 5.1 and 5.2	

Topic	Reference	Notes
		practices and should be read in conjunction with new subsection 2.13(a)(iv). Portions marked in Section 4.3(h) are still under discussion with the RySG.
Fees	Article 6	ICANN made clean-up and clarifying changes to align the Next Round RA fees with registries on the current Base RA, reflect current practices, optimize billing practices, and provide clarity on when and how ICANN may implement a fee increase.
Performance of Critical Functions	Section 7.5	Clarified the process required if a Registry Operator requests an amendment or termination of a Material Subcontracting Arrangement (MSA) which results in a Registry Operator performing any Critical Function itself.
ZONEMD	Exhibit A, Section 1.1.8	Among other clean-up changes to Exhibit A, ICANN revised Section 1.1.8 of Exhibit A to allow ZONEMD records in gTLD zones.
RFC and Other References	Specification 2, Part A, Sections 3, 4, 7, 8 and 9 and Part B, Section 7	ICANN replaced Section 9 of Spec 2, Part A with the specific reference instead in the body of the agreement for ease of reference.
Update Data Escrow Profiles	Specification 2, Part A, Section 3.2	Updated to account for an additional step with data escrow profiles when a registry is approved to offer a new Registry Service.
Data Escrow - Processing of Deposit Files	Specification 2, Part A, Section 4	Updated to reflect the new OpenPGP standard; recommended compression, secure upload, and cryptographic algorithms; and a mechanism to update those if needed in the future.
Release of Deposits	Specification 2, Part B, Section 6	Updated to simplify failure condition to submit data escrow deposits that allows release of data escrow deposit to ICANN.

Topic	Reference	Notes
References to WHOIS and WHOIS Sunset Date	Specifications 3, 4 and 10	ICANN has deleted or updated references to WHOIS and related terms following the sunset of WHOIS services.
Centralized Zone Data Service (CZDS)	Specification 4, Section 2	Updated to reflect that: • Registry Operators shall no longer provide direct access to zone files and instead shall do so through CZDS. • Registry Operators must respond to a Centralized Zone Data Access request within 7 days. • In an EBERO event, Registry Operators shall authorize the EBERO to take action for the CZDS to auto-approve and auto-renew all zone file access requests.
Schedule of Reserved Names	Specification 5, Section 3.2, Section 3.4, and Specification 9, Section 1(b)	Members of the Registries Stakeholder Group propose to update the number of names a Registry Operator may register and activate in the DNS at all levels for the promotion of the gTLD from 100 to 500 and add language so such names are non-cumulative.
EPP Extension to Launch a gTLD	Specification 6, Section 1.2	Updated to make RFC 5733 optional unless the Registry Operator uses contact objects and make the Launch Phase Extension (RFC 8334) mandatory. This is expected to provide uniformity across the industry, benefiting registries and registrars.
Successor RFCs and Amendments to STDs	Specification 6, Section 1.8 (new) and 1.9 (new)	Addition to enable ICANN and Registry Operators to handle RFC successors and Standards successors, amendments, or modifications by mutual agreement.
Name Collision Report Handling	Specification 6, Section 6.3	Members of the SubPro IRT suggested updates to reflect that ICANN reviews the name collision reports before relaying to the Registry Operator and that the Registry Operator must report back to ICANN what action is taken.