

Internationalized Domain Names Expedited Policy Development Process

A7, A9, D1b, B4



EPDP on IDNs Team Call #25 | 24 February 2022

A7

Charter Question A7 Recap

A7: What mechanism or criteria should be used to identify the scripts/languages appropriate for single-character TLDs? Once those scripts/languages are identified, what mechanism or criteria should be used to identify a specific list of allowable characters which can be used as a single-character TLD within such scripts/languages? Should any specific implementation guidance be provided? Furthermore, should the relevant GP tag these code points in the RZ-LGR for a consistent analysis and to ease their identification and algorithmic calculation?

Part 1: Scripts/languages appropriate for single character TLDs

Summary of Discussion:

- **Affirms SubPro's recommendation** that single character gTLDs may be allowed for ideographic script and language combinations
- The **Han script** is currently the only ideographic script included in the RZ-LGR, and **Chinese, Japanese, and Korean** are the only languages incorporating the Han script
- The Chinese language, and the portions of the Japanese and Korean languages that use the Han script are appropriate for single-character gTLDs

Part 2: Mechanism or criteria to identify a specific list of allowable characters for single-character TLDs & implementation guidance, e.g., GP tag these code points in the RZ-LGR

Staff Proposal to Address Part 2

Part 2: Mechanism or criteria to identify a specific list of allowable characters for single-character TLDs & implementation guidance

Summary of Discussion:

- Support to outsource this work to the Chinese, Japanese, and Korean Generation Panels, in consultation with the Integration Panel, but no instruction has been provided.

Staff Proposal:

- Instead of an inclusion list of allowable characters (as proposed in the charter), consider developing **mechanisms or criteria to disqualify Han characters** from being applied for as single character gTLDs
- Chinese/Japanese/Korean Generation Panels, in consultation with the Integration Panel, to develop a “**hard no**” list of disqualified Han characters (e.g., due to security/stability implications) and **tagging these code points in RZ-LGR**; output is subject to EPDP Team’s review
- EPDP Team to **provide clear instruction to GPs (and IP)** for developing **additional criteria (e.g., principles, recommendations)** for evaluating single character gTLD applications, and such criteria be used by the DNS Stability Panel, String Similarity Review Panel, etc; output is subject to EPDP Team’s review
 - Character is an ideograph / ideogram (SubPro recommendation)
 - Do not introduce confusion risks that rise above commonplace similarities (SubPro recommendation)
 - Demonstrate association or meaningfulness?
 - Be usable and can be composed using generally available input method editors?
 - Follow orthographic conventions?
 - Take into account SSAC recommendations on single character TLDs (SSAC052)?
- **Single-character gTLD applications are not allowed** until the aforementioned list and criteria become EPDP consensus recommendations and adopted/implemented as ICANN consensus policy

SAC052 HighLight

Recommendation 1: Given the potential for user confusion and the currently unfinished work on string similarity and IDN variants, the SSAC recommends a very conservative approach to the delegation of single-character IDN top-level domains

1. Delegation of all single-character IDN TLDs in all scripts should be disallowed by default.
2. Exceptions may be made for some scripts, but only after careful consideration of potential confusability both within and across scripts...
3. Single-character TLD applications in an exceptionally allowed script should be accepted only when there is clear evidence that there is no risk of user confusion. Each applied-for single-character TLD label must be explicitly examined across scripts to ensure that there is absolutely no possibility of user confusion within or across scripts.
5. ICANN should take into consideration the outcome of the IETF work on the creation of a concise specification of the TLD label syntax based on existing syntax documentation, extended minimally to accommodate IDNs.
6. ICANN should consider adopting the following guidelines regarding its consideration of which scripts and code points could be accepted as exceptions:
 - c) Some single-character IDN TLDs are composed of multiple Unicode code points, which may include non Lx-class code points. These should be subjected to a more stringent technical and confusability analysis, whose criteria should be well defined and made public
 - d) The script in which an exception is made and a single character IDN is allowed should not have characters that are intrinsically confusable with characters of another script (for example, Latin/Greek/Cyrillic, Lao/Thai, etc.).
 - e) The existing and extended rules of confusability must be met. Single-character code points must explicitly be examined across scripts.

Source: <https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/sac-052-en.pdf>

A9

Map Label States to gTLD Application Statuses

A9: A given label in an Internationalized Domain Label (IDL) set may be in one of the following non-exhaustive status: delegated, withheld-same-entity, blocked, allocated, rejected. develop a consistent definition of variant label status in the IDL set.

Existing Application Status: In IE, In EE, Evaluation Complete, In CPE, In Auction, In Contracting, In PDT, or Transition to Delegation, Withdrawn, **Not Approved, Will Not Proceed**, On-Hold, RA Terminated, **Delegated**

Label States Proposed by Staff Paper	Application Status in 2012 Round
Delegated	Delegated
Rejected	Not Approved + Will Not Proceed
Allocated	N/A - Precursor to “In Contracting” for gTLD applications
Blocked	N/A - need to be set aside and not available to apply
Withheld-same-entity	N/A - need to be set aside and not available for other applicants to apply

Staff Proposal to Address A9

Consider accepting the Staff Paper proposed label states and definitions as a preliminary recommendation; revisit if new discoveries are made

Rationale:

- Terms used for label states do not seem to be dependent on the terms used for application status; the EPDP Team is not asked to expand the application status to accommodate variant labels
- Label States are used to track the status of variant labels and applied in the gTLD application process and other processes (e.g., IDN ccTLD processes)
- Label states may affect whether variant labels play a role in the various steps of gTLD application and evaluation process; rather than how they are called, the label states effects are the real focus
- Label states and definition should remain TLD-neutral, so that they can be applied consistently across gTLDs and ccTLDs (to the extent possible) due to their potential use cases
- ccPDP4 proposes to include in a glossary the definitions of label states as recommended in the Staff Paper
- Is there any reason not to use the the Staff Paper proposed label states and definitions, at least for now?

Overlapping Application Status

- Delegated: Indicates the gTLD for this application has been delegated in the Root Zone of the DNS. This is a final status.
- Not Approved: The application is not approved and shall not continue in the New gTLD Program as a result of a resolution passed by the ICANN Board of Directors or a Committee of the ICANN Board, such as the New gTLD Program Committee.
- Will Not Proceed: The application has completed a Program process, and based on the outcome will not continue, as defined in the AGB. This could include process outcomes including but not limited to not passing evaluation, not prevailing a dispute resolution proceeding, not prevailing in contention resolution.

Proposed Definition Details in Staff Paper

Blocked: A status of some label with respect to a zone, according to which the label is unavailable for allocation to anyone. The term “to block” denotes the registry (the zone operator) taking this action.

Withheld-same-entity: A Withheld label is set aside for possible allocation only to the same entity of the other labels in the variant set. Note that this status does not guarantee that the label in question will in fact be allocated (because the label is also subject to other application conditions).

Rejected: A Rejected label is set aside on administrative grounds outside the ordinary LGR procedures. In the [gTLD application states](#), this state encompasses both “Not Approved” and “Will Not Proceed”. Labels that cannot be allocated on visual confusability grounds, based on the string similarity review step in the TLD application process, are also Rejected. If a single label in an IDL set is Rejected, it can return to Withheld-same-entity, but the condition is only satisfied if the Rejected status can be removed.

Allocated: A status of some label with respect to a zone, whereby the label is associated administratively to some entity that has requested the label. This term (and its cognates “allocation” and “to allocate”) represents the first step on the way to delegation in the DNS. When the registry (zone operator) allocates the label, it is effectively making a label a candidate for activation. Allocation does not, however, affect the DNS at all.

Delegated: A status of some label with respect to a zone, indicating that in that zone there are NS resource records at the label. The NS resource records create a zone cut, and require an SOA record for the same owner name and corresponding NS resource records in the subordinate zone. The act of entering the NS records in the zone at the parent side of the zone cut is delegation, and to do that is to delegate. This definition is largely based on RFC 1034; the reader should consult RFC 1034 for detailed discussion of how the DNS is broken into zones.

D1b

Part 2 Recap

D1b: What should be the process by which an existing registry operator could apply for, or be allocated, a variant for its existing gTLD? What should be the process by which an applicant applying for a new IDN gTLD could seek and obtain any allocatable variant(s)? What should be the associated fee(s), including the application fees and annual registration fees for variant TLDs? Should any specific implementation guidance be provided?

Part 1: A new applicant seeks to apply for a new gTLD and allocatable variant label(s) of that gTLD

Part 2: An existing Registry Operator seeks to activate allocatable variant label(s) of its existing gTLD

Summary of Discussion:

- Some support for a simplified process before the next round to allow registry operators to seek to activate variant labels
- Processes from the 2012 round may need to be taken into account, including resource/staffing needs and evaluation elements to ensure variants are introduced and managed in a secure/stable manner

Part 3: What should be the associated fee(s) and specific implementation guidance

Delegated Non-Latin Script gTLDs with Allocatable Variants

Delegated IDN gTLDs: 92

Delegated gTLDs w/ allocatable variants: 61

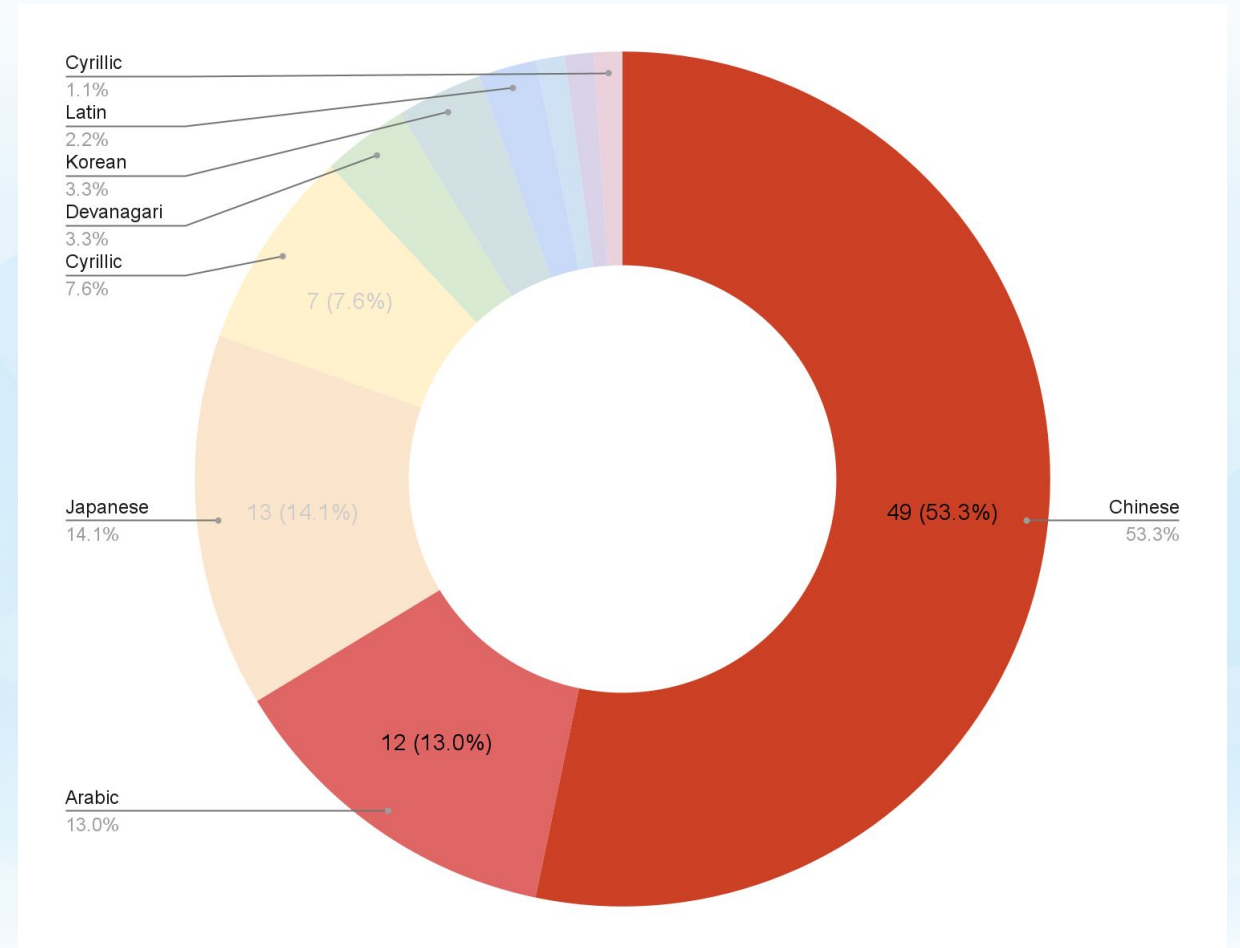
- Chinese and Arabic gTLDs are applicable

Registry Operators eligible to request to activate allocatable variant labels: 50

<<< Proposal For Consideration >>>

Targeted questionnaire to eligible registry operators:

- Interest / need to activate allocatable variant labels
- If interested, how many allocatable variant labels (based on RZ-LGR calculation) to activate
- Timing to do so
- Additional considerations



Part 3 Recap

D1b: What should be the process by which an existing registry operator could apply for, or be allocated, a variant for its existing gTLD? What should be the process by which an applicant applying for a new IDN gTLD could seek and obtain any allocatable variant(s)? What should be the associated fee(s), including the application fees and annual registration fees for variant TLDs? Should any specific implementation guidance be provided?

Part 1: A new applicant seeks to apply for a new gTLD and allocatable variant label(s) of that gTLD

Part 2: An existing Registry Operator seeks to activate allocatable variant label(s) of its existing gTLD

Part 3: Associated fee(s) and specific implementation guidance

Summary of Discussion:

- Some members stressed the “cost recovery / revenue neutral” principle
- Applicants from the 2012 round have already paid the application fee of \$185,000 and this should potentially be considered in the activation of variants
- Hard question to tackle without addressing each stage of the application process in detail

Fees from 2012 Round



Evaluation Fees

- **USD 185,000**
- Covers all required reviews in Initial Evaluation and in most cases any required reviews in Extended Evaluation
- **Ensure the program is fully funded and revenue neutral** and is not subsidized by existing contributions from ICANN funding sources, including generic TLD registries and registrars, ccTLD contributions and RIR contributions

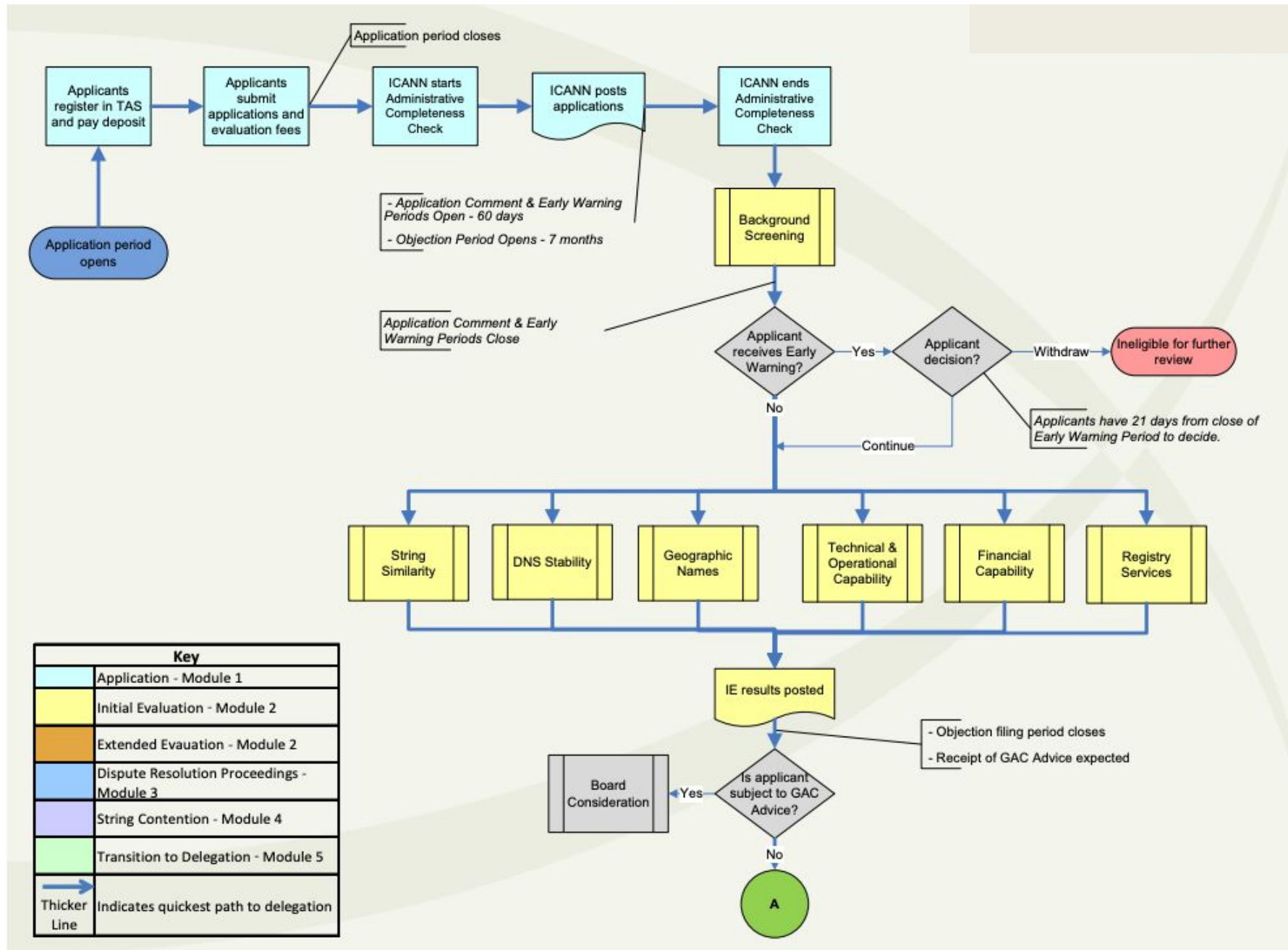
Fees Required in Some Cases

- **Registry Services Review Fee:** USD 50,000 (or more)
- **Dispute Resolution Filing Fee:** USD 1,000-5,000 (or more)
- **Advance Payment of Costs:** adjudication fees - USD 2,000-8,000 (or more); one-member panel hourly rate - USD 32,000-56,000 (or more); three-member panel hourly rate - USD 70,000-122,000 (or more)
- **Community Priority Evaluation Fee:** USD 10,000

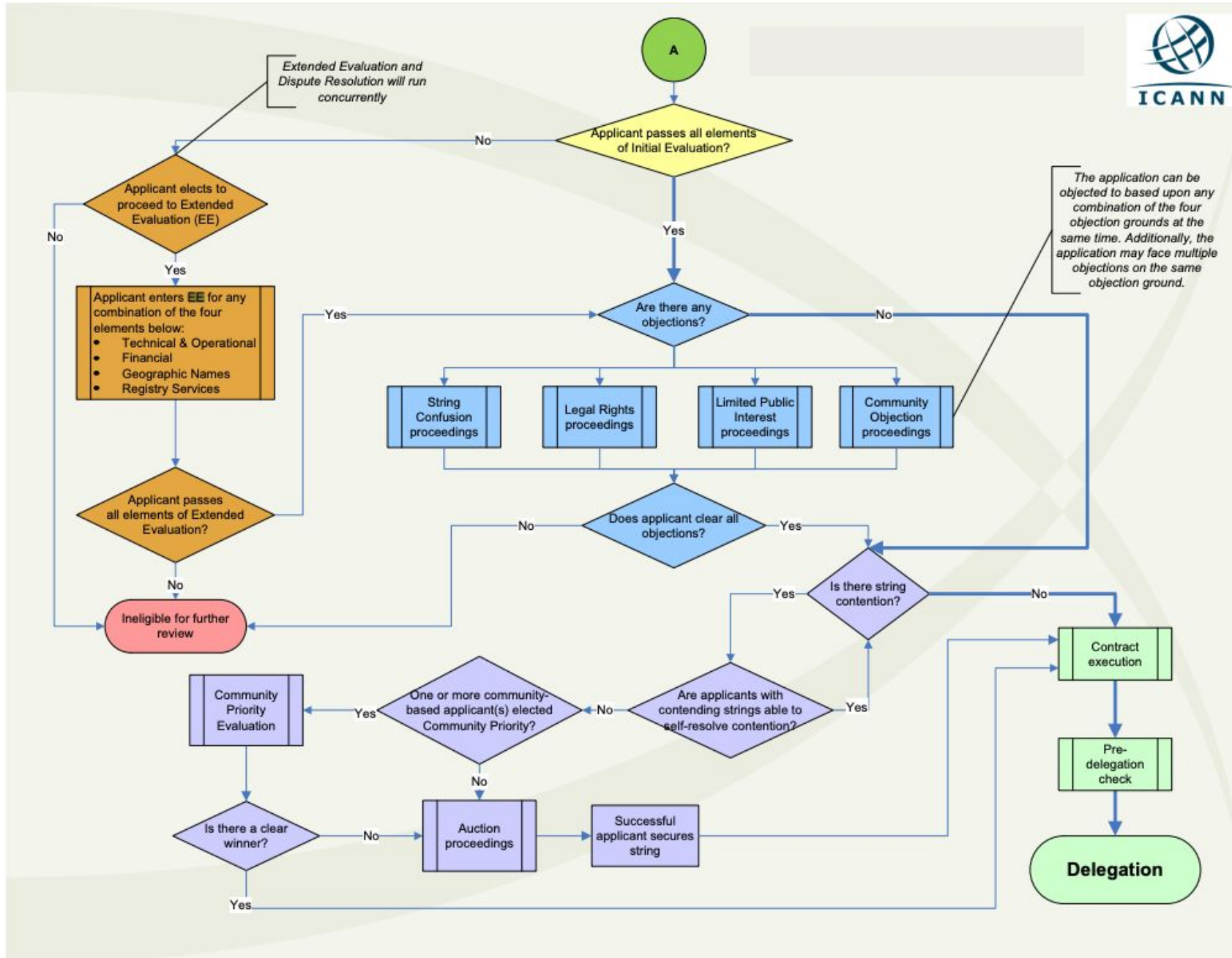
Ongoing Fees Once A gTLD Is Approved by ICANN

- **Fixed fee: USD 6,250 per calendar quarter** (USD 25,000 per calendar year)
- **Transaction fee: USD 0.25 per transaction**
 - Applicable to any “transactions” (e.g., initial registration, renewal)
 - Does not apply until and unless more than 50,000 transactions have occurred in the TLD during any calendar quarter or any consecutive four calendar quarter period in the aggregate (the “Transaction Threshold”)
 - Shall apply to each Transaction that occurred during each quarter in which the Transaction Threshold has been met

Application Process Flow in 2012 Round



Application Process Flow in 2012 Round (Cont.)



B4

Charter Question B4

B4: What should an application process look like in terms of timing and sequence for an existing and future Registry Operator with respect to applying or activating their allocatable variant TLD labels?