Proposed Redlines to Applicant Guidebook: Registrar Non-Discrimination & Registry/Registrar Standardization

X.X Information for All Applicants

X.X.1 Eligibility

Registrar Cross-Ownership -- ICANN-accredited registrars are eligible to apply for a gTLD. However, absent circumstances in which an exemption is granted to eligible registry operators, all registry operators are required to abide by a Code of Conduct addressing, inter alia, non-discriminatory access for all authorized registrars. ICANN reserves the right to refer any application to the appropriate competition authority relative to any cross-ownership issues. See [Section xx - Code of Conduct Exemption] for further details about the exemption to the Registry Code of Conduct.

Commented [1]: SubPro Rec 37.1: Recommendation 19 in the 2007 policy states: "Registries must use only ICANN accredited registrars in registering domain names and may not discriminate among such accredited registrars." The Working Group recommends updating Recommendation 19 to state: "Registries must use only ICANN accredited registrars in registering domain names, and may not discriminate among such accredited registrars unless an exemption to the Registry Code of Conduct is granted as stated therein, provided, however, that no such exemptions shall be granted without public comment."