Proposed Redlines to Applicant Guidebook: Registrar Support for New gTLDs

X.X Ongoing Operations

X.X.1 What is Expected of a Registry Operator

Maintain partnerships with ICANN-accredited registrars. A registry operator creates a Registry-Registrar Agreement (RRA) to define requirements for its registrars. This must include certain terms that are specified in the Registry Agreement, and may include additional terms specific to the TLD. Absent circumstances in which an exemption is granted to eligible registry operators, a registry operator must provide non-discriminatory access to its registry services to all ICANN-accredited registrars with whom it has entered into an RRA, and who are in compliance with the requirements. This includes providing advance notice of pricing changes to all registrars, in compliance with the time frames specified in the agreement (see [Article 2] of the registry agreement). See [Section xx - Code of Conduct Exemption] for further details about the exemption to the Registry Code of Conduct.

X.X.2 What is Expected of ICANN

ICANN will continue to provide support for gTLD registry operators as they launch and maintain registry operations. ICANN's gTLD registry liaison function provides a point of contact for gTLD registry operators for assistance on a continuing basis.

ICANN's contractual compliance function will perform audits on a regular basis to ensure that gTLD registry operators remain in compliance with agreement obligations, as well as investigate the registry operator's noncompliance with its contractual obligations. See http://www.icann.org/en/compliance/ for more information on current contractual compliance activities.

ICANN's Bylaws require ICANN to act in an open and transparent manner, and to provide equitable treatment among registry operators. ICANN is responsible for maintaining the security and stability of the global Internet, and looks forward to a constructive and cooperative relationship with future gTLD registry operators in furtherance of this goal.

Commented [1]: SubPro Recommendation 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."

Commented [2]: SubPro Affirmation 38.1: The Working Group affirms existing practice that it is up to a registrar to determine which gTLDs it carries.

Commented [3]: Placeholder term -- terminology may be updated