

Closed Generics

Applicants should be aware that the ICANN Board has resolved that ‘closed generic gTLD applications will not be permitted until such time as there is an approved methodology and criteria to evaluate whether or not a proposed closed domain is in the public interest.’¹

Based on the relevant text in the [Base Registry Agreement](#) a ‘closed’ TLD imposes eligibility criteria for registering names in the TLD that limit registrations exclusively to a single person or entity and/or that person’s or entity’s “Affiliates”². The Base Registry Agreement defines ‘generic’ as ‘a string consisting of a word or term that denominates or describes a general class of goods, services, groups, organizations or things, as opposed to distinguishing a specific brand of goods, services, groups, organizations or things from those of others’.³

Applicants will be required to affirm during the application process that they are not applying for, nor intend to operate a closed generic gTLD.

¹ The Board stated this in the “[GAC Advice – Hamburg Communiqué: Board Action \(21 January 2024\)](#)”, which the Board [resolved to adopt](#) on 21 January 2024 in response to GAC Advice in the [Hamburg Communiqué](#) (30 October 2023).

² As defined in Section 2.9(c) of the [Base Registry Agreement](#).

³ Specification 11.3(d) of the [Base Registry Agreement](#).