

How ALAC files an objection to a new gTLD application.

The At Large community through the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) has the ability to file objections to new gTLD applications during the Objection Period which ends January 12 2013.

Although there are four grounds for filing objections to new gTLD applications, the ALAC has standing to object on only two of these grounds : (1) Limited Public Interest grounds and (2) Community grounds.

In order to qualify for the Limited Public Interest Objection, the applied-for gTLD string must be contrary to generally accepted legal norms of morality and public order that are recognized under principles of international law -- typically well accepted multinational treaties. Anyone is eligible to file objections on Limited Public Interest grounds.

In order to qualify for a Community Objection, there must be substantial opposition to the new gTLD application from a significant portion of the community to which the gTLD string may be explicitly or implicitly targeted.

The gTLD Review Group (gTLD RG ; <https://community.icann.org/x/u7-bAQ>) was organised to facilitate the objection process within At-Large. This process involves the following main steps

- 1) The gTLD RG seeks comments from At-Large during the Objection Period. Comments received from At-Large are added to the new gTLD Dashboard at <http://bit.ly/newgtld> where other members of the At-Large community can read and post further comments.
- 2) Around November 7 2012, the gTLD RG reviews the comments on the new gTLD Dashboard and for each gTLD application with At-Large comments, the gTLD RG decides whether or not to draft a formal objection statement directed to that gTLD application on either limited public interest grounds or community grounds or both.
- 3) For those gTLD applications which the RG determines an objection statement is appropriate, members of the gTLD RG then work on a draft objection statement keeping the At-Large community informed via the gTLD Dashboard.
- 4) Around December 7 2012, the gTLD RG publishes final objection statements to gTLD applications in a format ready to submit to the Dispute Resolution Service Provider (DRSP).
- 5) The 5 Regional At-Large Organisations (RALOs) reviews each objection statement and decides whether it supports the filing of the objection statement by the ALAC.
- 6) By December 31 2012, each RALO sends to the ALAC its advice on the objection statements on whether the RALO supports the filing of an objection statement by the ALAC or not.
- 7) Objection statements NOT supported by at least 3 RALOs will not be considered by the ALAC. For those objection statements that **are** supported by 3 or more RALOs, the ALAC decides whether to file such objection statements to the DRSP. If the decision by the ALAC is yes, then the ALAC (with the support of ICANN) files the objection statement to the DRSP before the end of the objection period.