

# Next Round of NgTLDs / Subsequent Procedures The Last SubPro Supplemental Recommendation

**Update #18 to At-Large CPWG  
New GNSO Supp Rec On Singular/Plural Strings**

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# New GNSO Supplemental Recommendation 24.3

- ◉ **WHAT:** Delegation of singular and plural of same word in same language – consumer/end user confusion

SubPro PDP	GNSO SubPro Small Team Plus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SubPro PDP identified problem</li><li>• SubPro Recs 24.3 and 24.5 on String Similarity Review, but had “intended use” element – ICANN Board declined to adopt</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Developed Supp Recs w/o “intended use” element<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Supp Rec 24.3A - prohibiting plurals and singulars of the same word within the same language/script.</li><li>• Supp Rec 24.3B – exception for dotBrands</li><li>• Supp Rec 24.3C – reliance on recognised linguistic resources</li></ul></li><li>• ICANN Board indicated inclination to <b>not</b> adopt these Supp Recs either, had ICANN org propose alternative – Strawman #1</li></ul>

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## ⊙ **Based on ICANN Org Strawman #1**

- Discussed at CPWG 15 May, 22 May, 10 July
- Anyone can “**notify**” **ICANN org** of singular-plural of same word in same language, identifying pairs of string(s)/TLD with supporting ‘dictionary’
- ICANN-engaged panel to determine
- If determination is positive – reject / **place in contention set to resolve**
- No ‘notification’ means no concern

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- ⦿ **Background**

- ⦿ **Supplemental Recommendation**

- Prohibit delegation of singulars/plurals of same word in same language in order to reduce risk of end user confusion. **No exceptions.**
- ICANN org is informed and verifies by reference to a dictionary of “problematic” applications.
- Prohibition applies in 2 situations:-
  1. If applied-for string is singular/plural of an existing gTLD or specific Block Names (Annex A) → all such applications not permitted to proceed.
  2. If 2 applied-for strings are singular/plural of the same word in the same language → all such applications placed in contention set.

# Annex A – Limited list of Blocked Names subject to S/P prohibition

AFRINIC	IANA-SERVERS	NRO
ALAC	ICANN	ONION
APNIC	IESG	PTI
ARIN	IETF	RFC-EDITOR
ASO	INTERNAL	RIPE
CCNSO	INTERNIC	ROOT-SERVERS
EXAMPLE*	INVALID	RSSAC
GAC	IRTF	SSAC
GNSO	ISTF	TEST*
GTLD-SERVERS	LACNIC	TLD
IAB	LOCAL	WHOIS
IANA	LOCALHOST	WWW

\* +translations of the terms “test” and “example” in multiple languages

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## ⦿ Explanation

- Address ICANN Board's concerns about implementation – crowdsource reporting mechanism
- Considered possible exceptions at length
  - Trademark owners per Spec 13 for .brands
  - Restricted registrant eligibility criteria instead of “intended use”
  - Non-profit and CSO per RVCs
  - **No consensus, hence → no exceptions.** Still better than 2012 practice of allowing singular/plural delegation, subject only to string confusion objection.

## ⦿ Minority Statement

- Opposed to inconsistency with Applicant FOE, promotion of competition
- Restricted registrant eligibility based on objective criteria eg licensing, professional qualifications too narrow.

## ⦿ NCSG Plurality Statement

- Open to exceptions but opposed to just allowing exceptions for .brands