

**SLE Working Group Report on Service Level Expectation
for IANA Root Zone Management
(Post-Transition)**

27 August 2015 (Unanimously agreed by WG members and IANA)

Background	2
Principles.....	2
Assumptions	4
Service Level Expectations	8
Services definitions	8
Reporting mechanisms	13
Field Definitions	14
Informational Measurement and Reporting.....	15
Process Performance	17
Accuracy.....	25
Online Services Availability and Enquiry Processing	25
Next steps.....	27

Background

The Service Level Expectation (SLE) working group — formerly CWG Design Team A — is comprised of three gTLD Registry representatives and three ccTLD Representatives, and produced a report¹ providing analysis of the existing service levels associated with root zone management, and is providing recommendations associated with service levels in a post-transition environment.

The group conducted an historical analysis based on two factors: an analysis of the current Performance Standards that NTIA has with ICANN, and an analysis of real world transaction activity. The source of this second data set was based on two categories: published IANA performance reports, data (September 2013 to January 2015 with approximately 565 total data points), and transaction logs provided by ccTLD registries interacting with the IANA root management function.

Subsequent to production of this report, the Group has performed further analysis through discussion and collaboration with ICANN staff, in order to identify a framework for performance measurements for root zone management functions in a post-transition environment. These measurements are responsive to the recommendations in the working group's earlier report, and the principles contained within.

Principles

These are guiding principles agreed by the Design Team that help define the expectation for the monitoring and reporting environment, and guide the definition of the individual criteria used for reporting and assessment of the naming-related portions of the IANA Functions:

1. **Attributable measures.** Where practical, individual metrics should be reported attributing time taken to the party responsible. For example, time spent by IANA staff processing a change request should be accounted for distinctly from time spent waiting for customer action during a change request.
2. **Overall times.** Notwithstanding the previous principle, there is value in overall metrics being reported to identify general trends associated with end-to-end processing times.
3. **Relevance.** There should be a distinction between metrics that should be collected to support general analysis, versus which are the critical metrics that are considered important to set

¹ Design Team A findings (June 8), <https://community.icann.org/display/gnsocwgdtdstwrdsdp/DT-A+Service+Levels+Expectations>

These findings were incorporated into the final submission of the Cross-Community Working Group on Naming-Related Functions (CWG-Stewardship) to the IANA Stewardship Transition Coordination Group (ICG), <https://community.icann.org/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=53779816>

specific thresholds for judging breaches in ICANN's ability to provide an appropriate level of service.

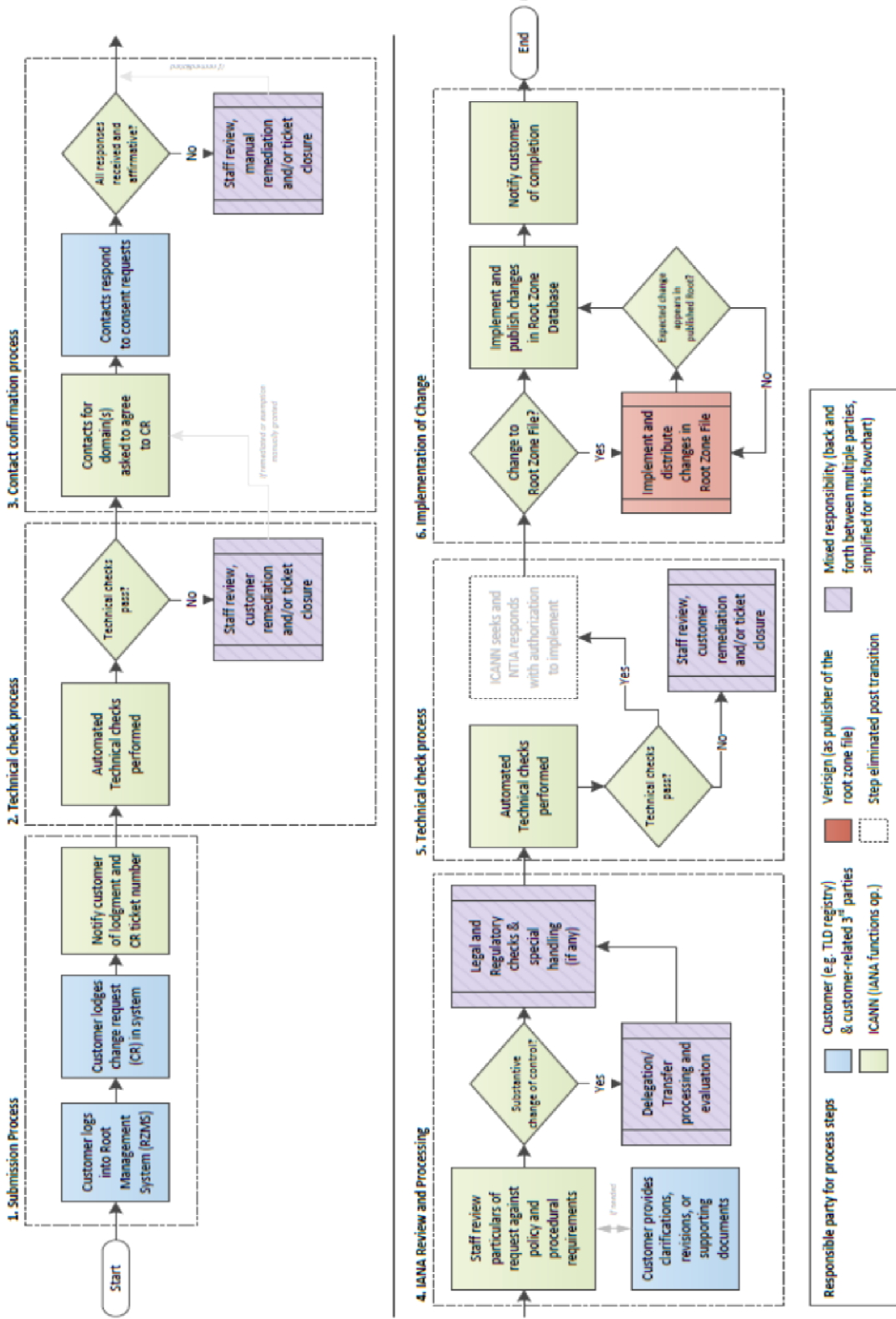
4. **Clear definition.** Each metric should be sufficiently defined such that there is a commonly held understanding on what is being measured, and how an automated approach would be implemented to measure against the standard.
5. **Definition of thresholds.** The definition of specific thresholds for a performance criteria should be set based on analysis of actual data. This may require first the definition of a metric, a period of data collection, and later analysis by the community before defining the threshold.
6. **Review process.** The service level expectations should be reviewed periodically, and adapted based on the revised expectations of the community and updates to the environment. They should be mutually agreed between the community and the IANA Functions Operator.
7. **Regular reporting.** To the extent practical, metrics should be regularly reported in a near real-time fashion.

Assumptions

- A. Service Level Expectations (SLEs) for a registry are normally based on specific transactions sent by a client to the registry. The metric for that transaction is generally of the form of “Transaction A must complete within X period Y percent of the time measured over Z”, for example, “a root zone update must complete within 72 hours 95% of the time measured on a monthly basis”.
- B. For metrics which are considered key reporting requirements, but for which this type of measurement is not considered viable (e.g. due to infrequency of the type of request), provisions are made for an exception-based reporting model. When there is an exception in such a category, there is an obligation to report on the incident.
- C. For the purposes of designing the Service Level Expectations, the current process is simplified to six key stages for all change requests (notification is implicit in each stage):
 - a. Accept change request submissions from customers;
 - b. Verify the change passes documented technical verification checks;
 - c. Obtain consent from relevant contacts to proceed with the change;
 - d. Verify the change request meets policy and procedural requirements;
 - e. Obtain authorization from NTIA to proceed with the change;
 - f. Implement the change and notify the change requester of completion of the change.
- D. Root Zone Management processes for routine change requests are largely automated. This automation includes:
 - 1. A web based interface for submitting change requests to the IANA Function Operator. The web based interface authenticates the credentials presented by the change requester and facilitates the creation of root zone file and root zone database change requests.
 - 2. Near-real time confirmation email to the initiator of the change request of its safe receipt by the IANA system. Note, in certain circumstances, the request is initiated by other means such as fax or written letter. In these situations, email may not necessarily be used in communications.
 - 3. Automated technical checks conducted by the IANA system on the change request. These checks ensure conformance of the technical data with agreed minimum standards, and check for errors in the material submitted.
 - 4. Seeking consent from the relevant contacts for the domain, through an automated email verification process where approval requests are sent to both, at a minimum, the admin and technical contacts at the Registry for both parties to consent to the update. (Note: Some contacts are slow to respond which creates inefficiency in the validation process. In certain circumstances, third party verification is also required, e.g. governmental approvals)
 - 5. The verified change request is transmitted to NTIA for authorization. For changes that impact the root zone file, the change request is also transmitted to the Root Zone Maintainer. This is performed through online interfaces.

6. Once confirmed, notification is sent by NTIA to IANA, and for changes that impact the root zone file, to the Root Zone Maintainer authorizing the change request for implementation.
 7. Prior to implementation, the Root Zone Maintainer repeats automated technical compliance checks on the request and once verified, implements the change within the root zone file. This file is typically published twice daily.
 8. On publication of updates to the root zone file, Root Zone Maintainer notifies IANA, who verifies the changes match the requested changes
 9. IANA updates the Root Zone Database and notifies the requester of completion.
- E. The processing role currently undertaken by the NTIA will no longer exist in the post-transition environment and those steps will no longer be undertaken. This means that IANA will have responsibility for triggering implementation at the conclusion of processing and communicating directly with the RZM.
- F. IANA's online systems operate 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, except for maintenance periods, as befits a service that has customers around the globe.
- G. In order to review the phases of processing, the following simplified process flow has been produced. The process flow should not be considered a substitute for the complete process flow utilized for managing the Root Zone, however it does illustrate the key phases of processing relevant for the evaluation of service level expectations:

Simplified Root Zone Process Flow



- H. The sum of the measurements produced from the various measured sub-processes as they pertain to IANA processing must represent 100% of the time under IANA's control during processing, in order to accurately assess IANA performance.
- I. Absent extraordinary circumstances, IANA will operate in an open and transparent manner while respecting customer confidentiality.
- J. In addition, it will respond to requests in a fair and non-discriminatory manner unless a requested change is deemed to be an emergency..
- K. IANA will document process deviations that result an SLE not being measured when it would normally be expected to do so. At a minimum, the reasons for process deviations should be available to the customer impacted.

Service Level Expectations

Services definitions

While there are many different ways change requests can be categorized, the key areas of distinction between different processing types for the purposes of metrics are as follows:

Category I (Routine updates impacting Root Zone File) — Routine change requests that alter the technical data published in the DNS root zone (i.e. changes to NS records, DS records and glue records) . For these changes the process requires IANA, both pre- and post-transition, to engage third parties to implement, publish and distribute changes in the root zone file.

Category II (Routine updates not impacting Root Zone File) — Routine change requests that do not alter the DNS root zone file (i.e. contact data and metadata). These changes do not engage third parties as part of implementation, and therefore will have a materially different processing timeframe.

Category III (Creating or Transferring a gTLD) — Requests to create (“delegate”) or transfer (“redelegate” or “assign”) a generic top-level domain. These changes require additional processing by IANA to ensure policy and contractual requirements are met associated with a change of control for the TLD. While the key processing is performed elsewhere within ICANN, the IANA processing is significant and therefore distinguishes this type of request from a routine change request.

Category IV (Creating or Transferring a ccTLD) — Requests to create or transfer a country-code top-level domain. These changes require additional processing by IANA to ensure policy requirements are met. This processing is performed by IANA staff, and includes performing additional analysis on the change request, producing a report, and having that report reviewed externally. This processing is significant, and is normally substantially longer than a routine change request, and therefore should be distinguished.

Category V (Other change requests) — Other non-routine change requests. IANA is required to process change requests that may have special handling requirements, or require additional documentary evidence or additional clarifications from the customer or third parties, that do not afford them the ability to automate. These scenarios include, but are not necessarily limited to:

- i. Customers that require requests to be handled outside the online self service platform, such as those lodging change requests through the exchange of postal mail;
- ii. Customers that have placed special handling instructions on file with IANA, or have otherwise asked for special handling for a request that deviates from the normal process, that must be executed manually by IANA staff;

- iii. Unique legal or regulatory encumbrances that must be satisfied that require additional processing;
- iv. Removing a TLD from service (i.e. retirement or revocation);
- v. Changes that relate to the operation of the root zone itself, including changing the Root Key Signing Key, altering the set of authoritative name servers for the root zone (i.e. the “root servers”), and changes to the “root hints” file.

These types of changes should be categorized distinctly from those requests for which there is a clear regularly conducted process that adheres to the typical processing path and may be removed from the SLE pool.

The applicable processing phases against which metrics for change requests should be reported and assessed can be mapped these categories as follows:

Step	Process				
	Cat I Routine updates impacting Root Zone File (NS, DS and glue records)	Cat II Routine updates not impacting Root Zone File (Contact details and metadata)	Cat III Creating or Transferring a gTLD	Cat IV Creating or Transferring a ccTLD	Cat V Other change requests (i.e. non-routine change requests)
Submission					
Time for ticket confirmation to be sent to requester following receipt of change request via automated submission interface	●	●	●	●	◐
Time for lodgment of change request into RZMS by ICANN staff on behalf of request sent by email	●	●	◐	◐	◐
Technical Checks					
Time to return results for technical checks following submission of request via automated submission interface	●	◐	◐	◐	◐
Time to return results for subsequent performance of technical checks	●	◐	◐	◐	◐

during retesting due to earlier failed tests					
Contact Confirmation					
Time for authorization contacts to be asked to approve change request after completing previous process phase	●	●	◐	◑	◒
Time for response to be affirmed by IANA ²	●	●	◐	◑	◒
IANA Review and Processing					
Time to complete all other validations and reviews by IANA Functions Operator and release request for implementation	●	●	●	●	●
Time for third-party review of request (i.e. by ICANN Board of Directors)				●	

² The time the automation system takes from when the last required confirmation is received, until the business process logic progresses the request to the next logic state.

Supplemental Technical Checks					
Time to return results for performance of technical checks during Supplemental Technical Check phase	●	◐	◐	◐	◐
Implementation of Changes					
Time for root zone changes to be published following completion of validations and reviews by IANA Functions Operator	●		◐	◐	◐
Time to notify requester of change completion following publication of requested changes	●	●	●	●	●

Legend: ● applies in all instances, ◐ applies in some instances (e.g. not all changes of that type involve changes to the root zone or require technical checks, therefore the applicability of processing steps is determined by the specifics of the change)

Service Area	Service
Root Zone Management System	An online interactive web service for credentialed customers to submit change requests to their root zone database entries, review historical and pending change requests, and perform other related actions. This system also provides related

	maintenance functions such as customer credential recovery.
IANA Website	Publication of materials associated with root zone management, including a representation of the Root Zone Database, related root zone process documentation and reports, and links to the Root Zone File.
General Enquiry Service	Response to ad-hoc queries from the public on questions pertaining to Root Zone Management.

Reporting mechanisms

IANA is required to provide the following reporting mechanisms. The availability of the reporting mechanisms are documented below.

Access	Type of Reporting	Metrics or Data Points	New/Existing
Public	Real-time Dashboard	Process Volumes	Existing
		Current SLE Metrics	Existing
		Visual Performance Indicators (e.g. Green, Yellow, Red)	New
	SLE Report	Performance against metrics	Existing
		Notification of breaches	Existing
		Explanations of any breaches	Existing
	Incident Reports ³	Reporting of incidents	Existing
		Root cause analysis	Existing

³ There may be confidentiality requirements pertaining to the level of disclosure of incidents. A protocol should be established with the CSC regarding the level of disclosure that is appropriate for incidents, mindful of preserving confidentiality of individual customer transactions and security considerations for the root management system.

Access	Type of Reporting	Metrics or Data Points	New/Existing
		Remediation steps	Existing
	Accuracy	Calculation based upon number of Incidents Reports vs. total volume	Existing
	Request database (data is of sufficient detail to verify the metric calculations use for the SLE report)	Every request made (that is accepted as a genuine request)	Existing
		Timestamps of key points in the request lifecycle	Existing
		The final status of each concluded request	Existing
Private (Requesting TLDs Only)	Status tracker (current and historical ⁴)	Every request made for the TLD	Existing
		The current status	Existing
		Timestamps of key events	Existing
		What action, if any, the TLD is required to do to move it to the next step	Existing

Field Definitions

The fields in the following tables are as follows:

- **Process.** The business process that IANA is requested to perform.
- **Metric.** The individual metric that will be measured as part of the completion of the business process.
- **Target.** The specified target for each individual change request.

⁴ It is understood historical records for requests lodged prior to the online management system will not be displayed.

- **Type.** Whether the target specified is a minimum target (compliance must be less than the target) or a maximum target (compliance must not be more than the target).
- **Breach.** The percentage limit of change requests within the specified period that fail to meet the metric, which if reached is deemed a breach in the SLE.
- **Period.** The period over which SLE compliance is measured.

Informational Measurement and Reporting

These elements reflect activity areas that should be instrumented by the IANA Functions Operator, and disclosed in reporting, either in real-time or in other reports, to inform the community on important parameters relating to the naming-related functions. Real-time reporting will be done via publishing in a publically accessible dashboard and non-real time reporting will be published monthly via incident reports.

ID	Metric	New/Existing	Mechanism
<i>Overall Request Processing Volumes and Timelines</i>			
A1	Total Time — average end-to-end processing time from submission to completion of change requests, divided across high-level partitioning of request types (such as contact data changes, nameserver changes, delegations/redelegations and root server changes)	Existing (as monthly report)	Publish in dashboard
A2	Volume — number of requests performed, divided across high-level partitioning of request types	Existing (as monthly report)	Publish in dashboard
A3	Final outcome — number/percentage of requests that are implemented, versus that are closed due to deficiencies, withdrawn by customer, etc.	New	Publish in dashboard
A4	Time per actor — average time taken for IANA processing, Root Zone Maintainer processing, waiting on customer response, waiting on ICANN Board (for delegations/redelegations), and other such parties.	New	Publish in dashboard
B1	Time to perform technical checks — Time to return results for technical checks following submission of request via automated submission interface	New	Publish in dashboard
B2	Time from submission to customer action required — average time for authorization contacts to be asked to approve change request after completing previous process phase	New	Public in dashboard

ID	Metric	New/Existing	Mechanism
B3	Time to complete all other IANA processing — Time to complete all other validations and reviews by IANA and release request for implementation.	New	Publish in dashboard
B4	Time for third-party review — Time for third-party reviews of requests (i.e. by ICANN Board of Directors)	New	Publish in dashboard
B5	Time for root-zone publication — Time for root zone changes to be published following completion of validations and reviews by IANA.	Existing ⁵	Publish in dashboard
B6	Time for final notification — Time to notify requester of change completion following publication of requested changes.	New	Publish in dashboard
<i>Accuracy</i>			
C1	Incorrectly implemented requests — Incidents where data published (i.e. in the root zone) differs from that requested and processed through the process.	Existing (as monthly report)	Produce incident reports
<i>Online Services Availability and Enquiry Processing</i>			
D1	RZMS availability for customers — percentage availability of the RZMS to allow customers to perform self-service operations via the web interface.	New	Publish in dashboard
D2	Website availability — percentage availability of IANA website for consulting documentations and other posted materials.	New	Publish in dashboard
D3	Directory service availability — percentage availability of WHOIS server and other registration data publication services	New	Publish in dashboard
D4	Credential recovery — timeliness of elements of credential recovery process	New	Publish in dashboard
D5	Performance metrics availability — availability of accurate, timely reporting to these standards via dashboard and other mechanisms.	New	Publish in dashboard

⁵ Currently this is reported from the time a request is authorized by NTIA, to the time a request is signaled as completed by the Root Zone Maintainer to ICANN via EPP. This would be altered to be the time the request is transmitted by ICANN to the Root Zone Maintainer; to the time a change is visible via the authoritative root servers.

ID	Metric	New/Existing	Mechanism
D6	Time to process enquiries — time to process general enquiries pertaining to root zone management, but not pertaining to interactions in a change request context.	New	Publish in dashboard

These following elements reflect measures against which specific thresholds should be set, with an expectation that the IANA Functions Operator will normally perform within the threshold, and the inability to meet the threshold will be identified, result in follow-up with the Customer Standing Committee to identify the cause. Regular unexplained inability to meet the thresholds may result in remedial action. The thresholds will be modified over time as part of periodic reviews of the service level expectation.

A subset of the following measures relate to measurement of non-routine changes where it is not applicable to set a specific threshold for performance. It is expected for measurements of non-routine process steps these will only be reported with no applicable service level expectation.

[Note: the actual threshold values contained within will be defined and agreed at a later stage following instrumentation of the IANA systems, and a period of data collection and review. See “Next Steps”.]

Process Performance

Note: Total IANA transaction time for emergency changes should be completed within a target of 12 hours.

Process Category	Metric	Threshold	Type	Breach	Period
Category I — Routine updates impacting Root Zone File (NS, DS and glue records)	Submission				
	Time for ticket confirmation to be sent to requester following receipt of change request via automated submission interface				
	Time for lodgment of change request into RZMS by ICANN staff on behalf of request sent by email				
	Technical Checks				
	Time to return results for				

Process Category	Metric	Threshold	Type	Breach	Period
	technical checks following submission of request via automated submission interface				
	Time to return results for subsequent performance of technical checks during retesting due to earlier failed tests				
	Contact Confirmation				
	Time for authorization contacts to be asked to approve change request after completing previous process phase				
	Time for response to be affirmed by IANA				
	IANA Review and Processing				
	Time to complete all other validations and reviews by IANA Functions Operator and release request for implementation				
	Supplemental Technical Checks				
	Time to return results for performance of technical checks during Supplemental Technical Check phase				
	Implementation of Changes				
	Time for root zone changes to be published following completion of validations and reviews by IANA Functions Operator				
	Time to notify requester of				

Process Category	Metric	Threshold	Type	Breach	Period
	change completion following publication of requested changes				
Category II — Routine updates not impacting Root Zone File (Contact details and metadata)	Submission				
	Time for ticket confirmation to be sent to requester following receipt of change request via automated submission interface				
	Time for lodgment of change request into RZMS by ICANN staff on behalf of request sent by email				
	Technical Checks				
	Time to return results for technical checks following submission of request via automated submission interface				
	Time to return results for subsequent performance of technical checks during retesting due to earlier failed tests				
	Contact Confirmation				
	Time for authorization contacts to be asked to approve change request after completing previous process phase				
	Time for response to be affirmed by IANA				
	IANA Review and Processing				
	Time to complete all other validations and reviews by				

Process Category	Metric	Threshold	Type	Breach	Period
	IANA Functions Operator and release request for implementation				
	Supplemental Technical Checks				
	Time to return results for performance of technical checks during Supplemental Technical Check phase				
	Implementation of Changes				
	Time for root zone changes to be published following completion of validations and reviews by IANA Functions Operator				
	Time to notify requester of change completion following publication of requested changes				
Category III — Creating or Transferring a gTLD	Submission				
	Time for ticket confirmation to be sent to requester following receipt of change request via automated submission interface				
	Time for lodgment of change request into RZMS by ICANN staff on behalf of request sent by email				
	Technical Checks				
	Time to return results for technical checks following submission of request via automated submission interface				
	Time to return results for				

Process Category	Metric	Threshold	Type	Breach	Period
	subsequent performance of technical checks during retesting due to earlier failed tests				
	Contact Confirmation				
	Time for authorization contacts to be asked to approve change request after completing previous process phase				
	Time for response to be affirmed by IANA				
	IANA Review and Processing				
	Time to complete all other validations and reviews by IANA Functions Operator and release request for implementation				
	Supplemental Technical Checks				
	Time to return results for performance of technical checks during Supplemental Technical Check phase				
	Implementation of Changes				
	Time for root zone changes to be published following completion of validations and reviews by IANA Functions Operator				
	Time to notify requester of change completion following publication of requested changes				
	Category IV — Creating or	Submission			
Time for ticket confirmation					

Process Category	Metric	Threshold	Type	Breach	Period
Transferring a ccTLD	to be sent to requester following receipt of change request via automated submission interface				
	Time for lodgment of change request into RZMS by ICANN staff on behalf of request sent by email				
	Technical Checks				
	Time to return results for technical checks following submission of request via automated submission interface				
	Time to return results for subsequent performance of technical checks during retesting due to earlier failed tests				
	Contact Confirmation				
	Time for authorization contacts to be asked to approve change request after completing previous process phase				
	Time for response to be affirmed by IANA				
	IANA Review and Processing				
	Time to complete all other validations and reviews by IANA Functions Operator and release request for implementation				
	Time for third-party review of request (i.e. by ICANN Board of Directors)				

Process Category	Metric	Threshold	Type	Breach	Period
	Supplemental Technical Checks				
	Time to return results for performance of technical checks during Supplemental Technical Check phase				
	Implementation of Changes				
	Time for root zone changes to be published following completion of validations and reviews by IANA Functions Operator				
	Time to notify requester of change completion following publication of requested changes				
Category V — Other change requests (i.e. non-routine change requests)	<p>Description: Other non-routine change requests. IANA is required to process change requests that may have special handling requirements, or require additional documentary evidence or additional clarifications from the customer or third parties, that do not afford them the ability to automate. These scenarios include, but are not necessarily limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Customers that require requests to be handled outside the online self service platform, such as those lodging change requests through the exchange of postal mail; ii. Customers that have placed special handling instructions on file with IANA, or have otherwise asked for special handling for a request that deviates from the normal process, that must be executed manually by IANA staff; iii. Unique legal or regulatory encumbrances that must be satisfied that require additional processing; iv. Removing a TLD from service (i.e. retirement or revocation); v. Changes that relate to the operation of the root zone itself, including changing the Root Key Signing Key, altering the set of authoritative name servers for the root zone (i.e. the “root servers”), and changes to the “root hints” file. <p>These types of changes should be categorized distinctly from those requests for which there is a clear regularly conducted process that adheres to the</p>				

Process Category	Metric	Threshold	Type	Breach	Period
	typical processing path and may be removed from the SLE pool.				
	Submission				
	Time for ticket confirmation to be sent to requester following receipt of change request via automated submission interface				
	Time for lodgment of change request into RZMS by ICANN staff on behalf of request sent by email				
	Technical Checks				
	Time to return results for technical checks following submission of request via automated submission interface				
	Time to return results for subsequent performance of technical checks during retesting due to earlier failed tests				
	Contact Confirmation				
	Time for authorization contacts to be asked to approve change request after completing previous process phase				
	Time for response to be affirmed by IANA				
	IANA Review and Processing				
	Time to complete all other validations and reviews by IANA Functions Operator				

Process Category	Metric	Threshold	Type	Breach	Period
	and release request for implementation				
	Supplemental Technical Checks				
	Time to return results for performance of technical checks during Supplemental Technical Check phase				
	Implementation of Changes				
	Time for root zone changes to be published following completion of validations and reviews by IANA Functions Operator				
	Time to notify requester of change completion following publication of requested changes				

Accuracy

Metric	Measurement	Threshold	Type	Breach
Root zone file data published in the root zone matches that provided in the change request	Accuracy	100%	Min	<100%
Root zone database is correctly updated in accordance with change requests (does not include impact of normalization and other processing)	Accuracy	100%	Min	<100%

Online Services Availability and Enquiry Processing

Metric	Threshold	Type	Breach	Period
RZMS availability — availability of an online interactive web service for credentialed customers to submit change requests to their root zone database				

entries.				
Website availability — availability of root zone management related documentation (i.e. on http://www.iana.org)				
Directory service availability — availability of the authoritative database of TLDs				
Credential recovery — time to dispatch confirmation email of forgotten username or password	5 min	Max	95%	Month
Credential change — time to implement new password within the system	5 min	Max	95%	Month
Dashboard update frequency — average time to update the dashboard to ensure up-to-date reporting	30 mins	max	100%	Month
Dashboard accuracy — the data presented on the dashboard is accurate	100%	min	<100%	Month
Dashboard availability — availability of the dashboard online	99% ¹	min	<99%	Month
SLE report production — time to produce reports following the conclusion of the reporting period	<i>Monthly</i>			
SLE report availability — availability of the SLE reports and associated data online	<i><10 days after month end</i>	<i>max</i>	<i>>10 days</i>	<i>Month</i>
SLE report publication — schedule of reporting periods	<i>Monthly</i>			
Time to send acknowledge of enquiry — time taken to send initial acknowledgement of receipt of a general enquiry pertaining to root zone management (but not pertaining to interactions in a change request context)				
Time to send initial response to enquiry — time taken for staff to respond to enquiry, either in part or in whole.				

Next steps

This document is intended to provide parameters for the post-transition measurement environment for the IANA root zone management functions. Following the approval and agreement of this document, it is expected that the necessary arrangements will be made to obtain permission to adopt these measures, and develop the required process and system changes to put them into operation.

Following a period of successful data collection using these new metrics, the community should reconvene to review the data collected to be used the help formulate the actual service level expectations (i.e. the key metrics against which thresholds will be set, and against IANA will be required to adhere to in a post-transition environment). This process would be conducted in-line with the earlier agreed principles.

Timelines: The Working Group formed the view that at the date of transition there must be a fully implemented set of Service Level Expectations in full operation. At no time should IANA operate without either; the NTIA Service Level Agreement or the community based Service Level Expectations, as prescribed above, being in place. ICANN/IANA commits to work with the community to develop and implement the scope of work to fulfill this requirement.

Post transition: The CSC should ensure that IANA's best performance practices and benchmarking are comparable to Service Level standards in comparable industries.