



The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

23 March 2015

Members of the Registry Stakeholder Group (RySG)

Re: Treatment of government comments on requests to release two-character ASCII labels

Dear Members of the RySG:

Thank you for your letter of 13 March 2015. We have posted the letter to the gTLD correspondence page (<https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/correspondence/rysg-to-atallah-13mar15-en.pdf>).

We would like to provide some clarification on the process for reviewing comments submitted by governments on the release of two-character letter/letter labels at the second level. As you know, requests to release such labels will be posted to the ICANN website for a 60-day comment period (see <https://www.icann.org/resources/two-character-labels>). Within 7 – 10 days of the close of the comment period, non-objected labels will be released via an authorization provided by ICANN to the registry operator.

For labels that receive objections from relevant governments, the labels will remain reserved. Should the registry operator and the objecting government reach an agreement regarding the release of the label, the registry operator shall notify ICANN that it has reached agreement, and ICANN will approve the release request and issue an authorization. The label will no longer be a reserved name.

Your letter stated, “There was an earlier suggestion that ICANN Registry Operators may be required to negotiate directly with the Government to be able to use the Letter/Letter combination, but that has not been confirmed. Nor should this be required.” We acknowledge your concern, however until there is Consensus Policy or a Board Resolution on this matter, ICANN can only follow the process outlined above. ICANN encourages further community discussions to resolve this matter, and until then, negotiation between the objector and the registry operator as a means to release this class of labels from the reserved names list.

I hope that this information is helpful to you and I look forward to the RySG’s input on alternatives to the process described above. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

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