

# **.ZA SLD Charter Guidelines**

**.ZA SECOND LEVEL DOMAIN (SLD) CHARTER GUIDELINES**

## PREAMBLE

The ZA Second Level Domain (SLD) General Policy is the overarching policy of the .ZA namespace and takes precedence over all existing and future policies of ZADNA and the SLDs. Therefore, in the event where this SLD Charter Guidelines is found to be in conflict with the General Policy, the General Policy will take precedence.

## 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This document set out guidelines on the interpretation of the ZA Second Level Domain (ZA SLD) Charters developed by ZA Domain Name Authority (ZADNA) for all the SLDs. ZADNA's mandate include Administering and managing the .ZA domain name space. This also include publishing general administration and management of the .ZA domain name space Guidelines.
- 1.2 The SLD Registry Operator may issue interpretive guidelines on its website regarding the terms of these Charter Guidelines.

## TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

*In this ZA SLD Charter Guidelines, the following words shall have the following meaning:*

**"Accredited Registrar"** means an entity specifically approved by the Registry Operator, who shall act on the Registrant behalf to deal with the SLD Registry Operator.

**"ADR"** means the Alternative Dispute Resolution Regulations promulgated by the Minister of Communications in terms of section 69 of the Act;

**"ccTLD"** means country code domain at the top level of the Internet's domain name system assigned according to the two-letter codes in the International Standard ISO 3166-1 (Codes for Representation of Names of Countries and their Subdivision);

**"Charter"** as a noun means the 'constitution' of a Second Level Domain, specifying, inter alia, the purpose and nature of the Second Level Domain, the criteria for registration of domain names within the Second Level Domain, and the manner of administration of the Second Level Domain; as a verb means the establishment of a Charter for a Second Level Domain, which process is completed upon approval of the Charter by ZADNA;

**"Domain Name"** means a string of character registered as a prefix to the ZA SLD in order for a server to be reachable on the Internet and which can be used for a variety of purposes including but not limited to Web services or E-Mail;

**"Domain Name System" or "DNS"** means a system to translate Domain Names into internet protocol (IP) or other information;

**"Private Use SLDs"** mean SLDs which were assigned to certain persons for private use prior to ZADNA assuming responsibility of managing and regulating .ZA;

**"Registrant or holder"** means an individual or legal entity or a general or limited partnership, for which a Domain Name is registered;

**"Registrar"** means an entity that is authorized by ZADNA in terms the Act or that is accredited by a Registry to register Domain Names and update Registry Data on behalf of Registrants in an SLD;

**"Registrar Agreement"** means an agreement to be concluded between a Registry and a Registrar in respect of a particular SLD;

**"Registry"** means an entity authorised by ZADNA to manage and administer a specific SLD, including the provision of primary and secondary name servers and WHOIS servers in relation to the relevant SLDs;

**"Restricted, Moderated SLD"** means an SLD that has eligibility requirements and has a duly-appointed person or entity, known as the moderator, who verifies each application's compliance with the SLD eligibility requirements;

**"Restricted, Un-moderated SLD"** means an SLD that has eligibility requirements and/or usage policy to which applicants bind themselves through the act of applying, but which has no moderator verifying the compliance of applications with the eligibility requirements;

**"Second Level Domain" or "SLD"** means a sub-domain immediately following ZA;

**"SLD Operator or SLD Administrator"** is a person to whom the custodial management and control of an SLD is delegated in terms of ZADNA's SLD Establishment and Dis-establishment Policy;

**"Unrestricted SLD"** means an SLD that has no eligibility requirements and that normally accepts applications from all-comers on a first-come, first-served basis;

**".ZA"** means South Africa's country code Top Level Domain (ccTLD), which is delegated according to the two-letter codes in the International Standard ISO 3166-1, which is an identification label that is assigned for a particular country, and which is capable of defining a realm of administrative autonomy;

**"ZADNA"** means the .ZA Domain Name Authority;

## **2. PURPOSE OF GUIDELINES**

2.1 The purpose of this Charter Guidelines is to provide meaning to the terms and clauses generally used in the published ZA SLD Charters and to interpret the applicability and eligibility criteria where it applies to each SLD Charter.

2.2 .ZA has the following SLD types that existed prior to ZADNA assuming responsibility as the Regulator and delegated administrator of .ZA:

- 2.2.1 Restricted, Moderated SLDs;
- 2.2.2 Restricted, Un-moderated SLDs'
- 2.2.3 Unrestricted SLDs; and
- 2.2.4 Private use SLDs.

2.3 Restricted, Moderated SLD

2.3.1 Restriction of registration is placed on the eligibility criteria upon acceptance of the application to register a domain name in the Restricted, Moderated SLD. Moderator verifies each application's compliance with the SLD eligibility requirements.

2.4 Restricted, Un-moderated SLD

2.4.1 Restriction of registration and compliance is placed on the usage policy to which applicants bind themselves through the act of applying, however, the SLD have no moderator who verifies compliance of each application with the eligibility requirements.

2.4.2 In this regard, ZADNA reserves the right to revoke the registration of the Registrant's domain name should the Registrant found not to be complying with the SLD Charter for a Restricted, Un-moderated SLDs Charter.

2.5 Unrestricted SLD

2.5.1 Unrestricted SLD has no eligibility requirements and that applications are accepted from all-corners on a first-come, first-served basis.

2.6 Private use or Private SLD

2.6.1 Private SLDs are SLDs which were assigned to certain persons for private use prior to ZADNA assuming responsibility of managing and regulating .ZA ccTLD.

2.6.2 These SLDs continues to be in use in compliant with the ZA General Policy and other related policies.

### **3. INTENTION**

3.1 Intention of the SLD generally describes the intended use of a particular SLD. Historically, org.za was intended for use by non-profit organisations only, however, Registrants may register an org.za domain name provided they use it only for non-commercial purpose.

3.2 The SLD Charter describes the intended use of the SLD in question, in terms of the purpose of its existence, i.e. the intended use of the domain names by registrants. For example, co.za intention is to be used for commercial and general purpose. This means that anyone and/or any institution may register a domain name in the co.za namespace.

### **4. CRITERIA FOR ACCEPTING REGISTRATIONS (ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA)**

4.1 Eligibility requirements or criteria for registering a name in the ZA SLD outlines the requirements that a Registrant must meet before a domain name is delegated. In most cases the registrant must meet either one more listed criteria in order to be eligible for registration of the domain name in a particular SLD namespace.

4.2 SLDs that have no eligibility criteria for accepting registration means that the SLD accepts registration requests from anyone.

### **5. LIMIT TO THE NUMBER OF REGISTRATIONS**

5.1 Depending on specific policies in relation to an SLD, some ZA SLDs may specify a limit to the number of domain names that a particular Registrant may be allowed to register.

5.2 Other ZA SLDs allows for unlimited number of domain names a Registrant may register. This means that a Registrant may secure more than one domain name in that specific namespace.

## **6. SLD MODERATOR**

- 6.1 Restricted, Moderated SLDs, have the moderator who may either be an entity or an individual.
- 6.2 Registry Operator may also act as the Moderator for that particular SLD or it can be an independent entity assuming the responsibility of Moderation function.
- 6.3 The SLD Moderator verifies each application's compliance with the SLD eligibility requirements and ensure that applicants meet the eligibility requirements stated in the SLD Charter before delegating a domain name.
- 6.4 Depending on the specific SLD policies, an SLD Moderator may request the Registrant to submit supporting documents in process of applying of the domain name in a particular SLD space.
- 6.5 Un-restricted SLDs does not need to be moderated as there is no eligibility criteria to be met before the domain name is delegated.

## **7. PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

- 7.1 By registering a domain name in any of SLDs, the Registrant warrants compliance with section 1.5 of the .ZA Second Level Domain General Policy (ZA SLD General Policy).

## **8. REGISTRY SERVICE**

- 8.1 A Registry is an entity authorized by ZADNA to manage and administer a specific SLD in the .ZA namespace.
- 9. 8.1 Registry functions for the SLDs includes, name servers and zone file maintenance, provision of Whois services, ensure security and stability of the Registry infrastructure, and provision of associated services to Accredited Registrars.

## **9. REGISTRAR SERVICE**

- 9.1 A Registrar is an entity that is authorised by a particular SLD Operator to register domain names and update registry data on behalf of the Registrant in an SLD.

### 9.1.1 Accredited Registrars

9.1.1.1 Some SLDs accredits Registrars to register domain names on behalf of Registrants.

9.1.1.2 Registrar Onboarding is a process that an applicant/Registrar must complete to obtain accreditation from a Registry so that it can provision domain names in the zones that have been delegated to that Registry. This may include, inter alia, signing the prescribed or relevant Registrar Agreement, paying an accreditation fee and passing a series of technical (OT&Es) and legal checks.

9.1.1.3 Other SLDs make use of Accredited Registrars allow for sale of domain names through resellers. This involves a Registrar who is not accredited but registers domain names on behalf of Registrants through an Accredited Registrar.

### 9.1.2 Non-accredited Registrars

9.1.2.1 Non-accredited Registrars do not need an onboarding process as the Registrar may either be an individual or an entity with no formal contract with the Registry.

9.1.2.2 In some cases, other SLDs Operators also serve as a Registrars for a particular SLD. This means that Registrants may only register a domain name directly through that specific SLD Registry Operator. The Registry Operator may also offer DNS and other related hosting services to the Registrant upon registering a domain name in that SLD namespace. Registry Operators use this model to avoid onboarding process for accrediting Registrars.

## 10. DOMAIN NAME FEES

10.1 Some SLD charges registration and renewal fee periodically when registering a domain name in their SLD namespace, other SLDs do not charge a fee when registering a domain name in the namespace. Domain name registration must comply with section 1.9 of the .ZA SLD General Policy.

## 11. ZA SLD POLICY

11.1 In addition to the SLD Charter, Registrants and Registrars shall comply with:

11.1.1 Specific policies that ZADNA may apply specifically to .ZA SLDs; and

11.1.2 Supplemental, operational policies of the .ZA SLDs Registry.

11.1.3 ZADNA specific policies are the policies developed and published by ZADNA, i.e. ZA SLD General Policy.

11.1.4 SLD Supplemental, Operational Policies of the SLD are policies developed by an SLD Operator for a particular SLD, i.e. ZACR's CO.ZA Published Policies and Procedures.

## **12. DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

12.1 Some ZA SLDs are exempted from the application of ZA ADR Regulations, (as promulgated by the Minister of Communications in terms of section 69 of the Electronic Communications and Transactions Act 25 of 2002), in the resolution of their domain name disputes.

12.2 The ADR regulations apply automatically to all SLDs that are not exempted.

12.3 ADR procedure is the policy and procedure of the Registry Operator dispute resolution service that can be used by a third party when it disagrees with a domain name registration.