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# Domain Name Eligibility Policy

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The .ae Domain Administration – .aeDA  
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# Document Information

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# Domain Name Eligibility

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## 1. Interpretation and Definitions

- 1.1. Except where expressly provided otherwise in this Policy, all terms used in this Policy, and defined in the .aeDA's Common Definition Policy (as amended from time to time) will carry the meaning ascribed to them in that Common Definition Policy.
- 1.2. Except where the context otherwise requires, the following principles will apply in interpreting the terms and words used in this Policy:
  - a) words importing the masculine, feminine or neuter gender include any of them, and the singular includes the plural and vice versa;
  - b) clause or section headings are for ease of reference only and do not affect the meaning of this Policy;
  - c) references to notice mean notice in writing;
  - d) the Schedules and any appendices or annexures form part of this Policy;
  - e) a reference to a Party includes its executors, administrators, successors and permitted assigns; and
  - f) words and expressions importing natural persons include partnerships, bodies corporate, associations, governments, governmental and local authorities and agencies.
- 1.3. The following words were used in this Policy will have the meaning ascribed to them below;

**"2LD"** a Domain Name that consists of a single Label under the ccTLD. For example: "domainname.ae"; and

**"3LD"** a Domain Name that consists of two Labels under the ccTLD. For example: "domainname.co.ae".

## 2. Purpose

- 2.1. The purpose of this Policy is to define the rules that govern the granting of 2LD and 3LD Domain Name Licences.
- 2.2. These Policy rules do not deal with the Eligibility of Legacy Domains, and are not retrospective in affect. Legacy Domains will not be affected by this Policy or the rules contained in it, and the Registrant will be entitled to Renew the relevant Domain Name Licence or update the information stored in the Registry System in respect of the relevant Domain Name Licence at its expiry or termination PROVIDED THAT the Registrant meets the Eligibility Requirements to hold a Domain Name Licence.

### **3. Legacy Domain Names**

- 3.1. All Legacy Domains in the Restricted Zones will be listed with a status of "Legacy" in the Registry at the time of the commencement of the New Registry Operations.
- 3.2. No changes to the information stored in the Registry System relating to Legacy Restricted Domains will be allowed until such time as the information as to Eligibility of the Registrant and the correct Registrant Contact information in respect of that Domain Name has been updated. The .aeDA will review these updates as they are submitted.
- 3.3. Unrestricted Legacy Domain Names are exempted from the Eligibility update requirement referred to immediately above however the Registrant Contact information MUST be updated prior to any Renewal of the Domain Name.
- 3.4. Expiry of Legacy Domain Name Licences:
  - 3.4.1. Domain Name Licences in respect of Legacy Domains, with greater than three years until expiry, at the time of the application of this Policy, will have their expiry date set to three years from the commencement of the New Registry Operations;
  - 3.4.2. Domain Name Licences that were provided by UAEnic or Etisalat where the expiry date for the Domain Name or the term of the Registration is not set prior to the commencement of the New Registry Operations or the provided expiry date has elapsed, will have their expiry date set to one year from the date of the commencement of the New Registry Operations; and
  - 3.4.3. All other Domain Name Licences will be Eligible for Renewal one hundred and twenty (120) Calender Days after the commencement of the New Registry Operations, or the on the expiry of the existing Domain Name Licences, whichever is greater.
- 3.5. All Renewals of Legacy Domains will be required to meet the Eligibility Requirements, in which case the relevant Domain Name will be the subject of a Domain Name Licence, as issued by the .aeDA under the New Registry Operations.
- 3.6. Registrants who believe that they have a legitimate reason to be exempted from having the expiry date of their Legacy Domain Licence(s) altered in accordance with the principles set out above, or a legitimate reason for not having to meet the Eligibility Requirements on renewal, should contact the .aeDA.

### **4. Domain Name Licence**

- 4.1. There are no proprietary rights in the Domain Name System. A Registrant does not own a Domain Name, but rather the Registrant holds an exclusive licence to use a Domain Name for a specified period and pursuant to the terms and conditions that govern the Domain Name Licence.

- 4.2. The terms and conditions of a Domain Name Licence are altogether set out in each of the following:
  - 4.2.1. the Application;
  - 4.2.2. the Domain Name Licence;
  - 4.2.3. the Registrant Agreement;
  - 4.2.4. this Policy; and
  - 4.2.5. any other applicable Policy issued by the .aeDA, the TRA, or the Supreme Committee.
- 4.3. Domain Names are allocated on a ‘first come, first served basis’ which means that where two or more Applicants are seeking a Domain Name Licence in respect of a particular Domain Name and they all meet the Eligibility Requirements, that Applicant whose Application is accepted by the .aeDA first will be granted the Domain Name Licence.

## **5. Structure of the .ae Domain**

### **5.1. Unrestricted Zone(s)**

- 5.1.1. Any Domain Name Registered immediately under the “.ae” ccTLD is a Domain Name Registered in the Unrestricted Zone, PROVIDED THAT it is not one of the 2LDs reserved by the .aeDA for use in Registering 3LDs described in Section 5.2 below.
- 5.1.2. The only Unrestricted Zone at the time of publication of this Policy is the .ae ccTLD; this will be reviewed at the sole discretion of the .aeDA from time to time.
- 5.1.3. Unrestricted Domain Names are Domain Names that reside in an Unrestricted Zone which may be Registered by any Applicant, and may be available through all Accredited Registrars, subject to the .aeDA’s Policy.

### **5.2. Restricted Zone(s)**

- 5.2.1. The .aeDA has reserved a number of 2LDs for use in Registering 3LDs that reside within a particular type or class, or for a particular purpose.
- 5.2.2. The type, class or purpose of these Domain Names is indicated by the 2LD under which the Domain Name is Registered, and this also indicates the Eligibility Requirements which are described in Sections 11 to 16 of this Policy.
- 5.2.3. At the time of publishing this Policy a number of 2LDs are reserved by the .aeDA for this purpose including:
  - co.ae;
  - net.ae;
  - org.ae;
  - sch.ae;

- ac.ae;
  - gov.ae; and
  - mil.ae.
- 5.2.4. These 2LDs are collectively known as Restricted Zones. Any 3LD ending in one of these 2LDs is thereby considered to be in a Restricted Zone.
- 5.2.5. The 2LDs which are reserved for this purpose will be reviewed by the .aeDA and may be added or removed from the Restricted Zone from time to time at the sole discretion of the .aeDA.
- 5.2.6. Restricted Domain Names are those which reside in the Restricted Zones.
- 5.2.7. Restricted Domain Names require that the Registrant must meet the Eligibility Requirements described in Sections 11 to 16 of this Policy.
- 5.2.8. Restricted Domain Names can only be Registered through Accredited Registrars based in the UAE, subject to the .aeDA's Policy.

## **6. Application of the policy**

- 6.1. The .aeDA has the responsibility to ensure the integrity of the .ae ccTLD is maintained. The .aeDA will monitor and enforce its Policies as required, and reserves the right to revoke any Domain Name Licence that is found to be in breach of its Policies or the terms and conditions pursuant to which the Domain Name Licence is granted.
- 6.2. Accredited Registrars have the responsibility to apply the Policies of the .aeDA. Applications for a Domain Name must be checked for compliance by the Registrar before being submitted to the .aeDA Registry.
- 6.3. Registrants are required, in accordance with their Registration Agreement and the relevant Domain Name Licence, to ensure they meet the Policy Requirements, when submitting their Application. The Registrants are also required to Warrant that they satisfy the Eligibility Requirements during the Application process.

## **7. Breaches of policy**

- 7.1. The .aeDA reserves the right to revoke a Domain Name Licence where a Registrant has made a false Warranty or given false, inaccurate information, or information which is incomplete in any material manner during the Application process or as part of the Application.
- 7.2. The .aeDA reserves the right to revoke any Domain Name Licence where a Registrant is found in violation of any of the relevant laws or regulations of the UAE, and in particular the UAE Federal Criminal Law No. (3) of 1982 and its amendments, and the Federal Law on Preventing Information Technology Crimes No. (2) of 2006.
- 7.3. The .aeDA may take action against a Registrar where there is evidence that the Registrar has acted negligently in approving an Application in breach of a relevant Policy.

- 7.3.1. Possible actions include but are not limited to
  - 7.3.1.1. the revocation of Accreditation; and
  - 7.3.1.2. the .aeDA informing Registrants and the general public of the actions of that Registrar.

## **8. Eligibility criteria – General**

### **8.1. General Registrant Requirements**

The granting of a Domain Name Licence does not of itself give rise to any intellectual property or other rights in the name the subject of the Domain Name Licence, or any part of the Domain Name. Accordingly, it is the Registrant's responsibility to ensure that it has the right to use the Domain Name and that the registration or use of the Domain Name does not violate any third party intellectual property rights or other rights, does not defame any person and does not contravene any applicable laws.

### **8.2. Domain Name Licence Period**

The Domain Name Licence Period will be as follows:

- 8.2.1. one, two, three, four or five years for all Domain Names Registered after the commencement of the New Registry Operations, depending on the terms of the particular Domain Name Licence; and
- 8.2.2. all existing Domain Name Licences in existence as at the commencement date of the New Registry Operations will be determined in accordance with Section 3 above.

### **8.3. No limitation on Unrestricted Domain Names**

There is no limit on the number of Domain Names in the Unrestricted Zone(s) that may be licenced to a Registrant, however; each Domain Name Application must meet the Eligibility Requirements and the .aeDA Policies.

### **8.4. Limitations on Restricted Domain Names**

Domain Names that may be Registered in the Restricted Zone(s) are only those that are an exact match to, an acronym of or an abbreviation of, or closely connected to the name of the Registrant's company name or trading name, organisation or association name or trademark.

Each Domain Name Application for a Domain Name within a Restricted Zone must meet the Eligibility Requirements and the .aeDA Policies.

## **8.5. Composition of Domain Names**

Domain Names must:

- have minimum of 2 and a maximum of 63 characters;
- begin with a letter or a number and end with a letter or a number;
- use the English character set and may contain letters (i.e., a-z, A-Z), numbers (i.e. 0-9) and dashes (-) or a combination of these;
- neither begin with, nor end with a dash;
- not contain a dash in the third and fourth positions (e.g. www.ab- -cd.ae); and
- not include a space (e.g. www.ab cd.ae).

## **8.6. Reserved Names List**

- 8.6.1. The .aeDA maintains the Reserved Names List. Domain Names on this List may not be licenced without the required authorisation in accordance with the .aeDA's Reserved Names Policy.
- 8.6.2. The .aeDA reserves the right to revoke a Domain Name Licence, the Registrant of which is Domain Name in breach of this Policy or any other .aeDA Policy.

## **9. Eligibility Requirements**

In addition to meeting the general requirements applying to Domain Names in any as listed above, each Zone of the .ae ccTLD has specific Eligibility requirements, these are listed below.

## **10. Eligibility Requirements for .ae – Unrestricted Zone**

For Registration of Domain Names under the .ae ccTLD, Applicants are not required to provide any documentary evidence, nor meet any requirement other than those mentioned above, and as stated in the Registrant Warranties Policy.

## **11. Eligibility Requirements for co.ae – Restricted Zone**

- 11.1. 3LDs ending with the Suffix “co.ae” are Domain Names for commercial entities trading in the UAE. Registrants must either:
  - 11.1.1. have a valid trade licence within the UAE issued under the Commercial Companies law (i.e. a Limited Liability Company); or
  - 11.1.2. be an applicant for, or a registered holder of a trade mark in the UAE.
- 11.2. The Domain Names applied for in this class of 3LDs must be:
  - 11.2.1. an exact match to, or
  - 11.2.2. an acronym of, or
  - 11.2.3. an abbreviation of, or
  - 11.2.4. closely connected to,  
one of the following:
    - 11.2.4.1. the name of a company in which the Registrant has a 50% or greater shareholding or which the Registrant controls;
    - 11.2.4.2. the trading name or trade mark of a company in which the Registrant has a 50% or greater shareholding or which the Registrant controls; or
    - 11.2.4.3. the name of an organisation or association controlled by the Registrant.
- 11.3. Commercial entities trading in the UAE Free Zones are not eligible for a co.ae domain name.

## **12. Eligibility Requirements for net.ae – Restricted Zone**

- 12.1. 3LDs with the Suffix “net.ae” are the Domain Names for Information Technology (IT) Service Providers registered within the UAE. Such Applicants must meet the following requirements:
  - 12.1.1. have a valid trade licence within the UAE specifically for providing IT services; and
  - 12.1.2. be the applicant for, or registered holder of a trade mark in the UAE for an IT service or product.
- 12.2. The Domain Name applied for within this class of 3LDs must be:
  - 12.2.1. an exact match to, or
  - 12.2.2. an acronym of, or
  - 12.2.3. an abbreviation of, or

- 12.2.4. closely connected to,
  - one of the following:
    - 12.2.4.1. the name of a company in which the Registrant has a 50% or greater shareholding or which the Registrant controls;
    - 12.2.4.2. the trading name or trade mark of a company in which the Registrant has a 50% or greater shareholding or which the Registrant controls; or
    - 12.2.4.3. the name of an organisation or association controlled by the Registrant.
- 12.3. Commercial entities trading in the UAE Free Zones are not eligible for a net.ae domain name.

## **13. Domain Name Eligibility Requirements for org.ae – Restricted Zone**

- 13.1. 3LDs with the Suffix “org.ae” are Domain Names for “Not for Profit Organisations” of the UAE, including the following:
  - 13.1.1. sporting organisations;
  - 13.1.2. charitable organisations; and
  - 13.1.3. religious organisations.
- 13.2. Applicants for “org.ae” Domain Name must ensure the Administrative Contact is an employee or officer of the requesting organisation and shall certify, through their acceptance of the Registrant Agreement, that they have delegated authority from the CEO, the organisations Board of Directors, Secretary, or the Chairman to Register a Domain Name on behalf of that organisation.
- 13.3. Applicants will provide a copy of their Certificate of Registration or a letter to this effect from the Ministry of Social Affairs of the UAE.
- 13.4. The Domain Name applied for must be:
  - 13.4.1. an exact match to, or
  - 13.4.2. an acronym of, or
  - 13.4.3. an abbreviation of, or
  - 13.4.4. closely connected to the name of the Registrant’s organisation, company name or trading name, organization or association name or trademark.

## **14. Domain Name Eligibility Requirements for sch.ae and ac.ae – Restricted Zone**

- 14.1. 3LDs with the Suffixes “sch.ae” and “ac.ae” are the Domain Names for schools and academic organisations within the UAE, including universities, public and private schools, colleges and educational institutions:
  - 14.1.1. Applicants for the “sch.ae” and the “ac.ae” Domain Names must ensure the Administrative Contact is an employee of the requesting organisation and shall certify, through their acceptance of the Registrant Agreement, that they have delegated authority from the CEO, Chairman, or the Principal to Register a Domain Name on behalf of that organisation.
  - 14.1.2. Applicants will provide a copy of their Certificate of Registration of a School or a letter to this affect from the Ministry of Education of the UAE.
- 14.2. The Domain Name applied for must be:
  - 14.2.1. an exact match to, or
  - 14.2.2. an acronym of, or
  - 14.2.3. an abbreviation of, or
  - 14.2.4. closely connected to the name of the Registrant’s school, academic organisation, company name or trading name, organisation or association name or trademark.

## **15. Eligibility Requirements for gov.ae – Restricted Zone**

- 15.1. 3LDs with the Suffix “gov.ae” is the Domain Name for Government Departments and Ministries of the UAE.
- 15.2. The Registrant must be an organisation established by the laws of the UAE, or decree as a government department or agency; a local government entity; a statutory authority; or other defined government body.
- 15.3. Domain Names with the Suffix “gov.ae” must only be used for the official business of the Registrant organisation.
- 15.4. Registrants must state the purpose of the website that will be associated with the specific Domain Name in respect of which a Domain Name Licence is sought, in the Application.
- 15.5. The Domain Name must be used specifically and exclusively for the stated purpose for the duration of the Domain Name Licence Period.
- 15.6. The Administrative Contact must be an employee of the Applicant and shall certify, through their execution of the Registrant Agreement on behalf of the Registrant, that they have delegated authority from the relevant Minister, or Officer to Register a Domain Name on behalf of the Registrant.

- 15.7. Applicants will provide a letter from the relevant Minister, or Officer authorising the registration of that Domain Name.

## **16. Eligibility Requirements for mil.ae – Restricted Zone**

- 16.1. 3LDs with the Suffix “mil.ae” are Domain Names for military authorities of the UAE.
- 16.2. The Registrant must be an organisation established by the UAE Laws, or decree as a government department or agency, a statutory authority, or other defined government body as a military organisation.
- 16.3. Domain Names with the Suffix “mil.ae” must only be used for the official business of the Registrant’s organisation.
- 16.4. Registrants must state the purpose of the Domain Name in their Application.
- 16.5. The Domain Name must be used specifically and exclusively for the stated purpose for the duration of the Domain Name Licence Period.
- 16.6. The Administrative Contact must be an employee of the Applicant and shall certify, through their execution of the Registrant Agreement on behalf of the Registrant that they have delegated authority from the relevant Minister or Officer to Register a Domain Name on behalf of that organisation.
- 16.7. Applicants will provide a letter from the relevant Minister, or Officer authorising the registration of that Domain Name.

## **17. Policy review**

The .aeDA may update this Policy at any time in its complete discretion, including for the purpose of clarification.