**Step 1 Verify that it is possible to perform a switchover operation.**  
  
  
SQL> select switchover\_status from v$database;  
  
  
**Note:**All v$database switchover\_status values are shown at the bottom of this page.  
  
If SWITCHOVER\_STATUS returns SESSIONS ACTIVE then you should either  
disconnect all sessions manually or when performing step 2 you should append  
the with session shutdown clause. For example:  
  
SQL> alter database commit to switchover to standby with session shutdown;  
  
**Step 2 Convert the primary database to the new standby**  
  
SQL> alter database commit to switchover to standby with session shutdown;  
  
**Note:** This might take a few minutes.  
  
**Step 3 Shutdown the former primary and mount as a standby database**  
  
  
SQL> shutdown immediate  
  
**Note:** An ORA-01507: database not mounted is normal  
  
SQL> startup nomount   
SQL> alter database mount standby database;  
  
**Step 4 Defer the remote archive destination on the old primary**  
  
SQL> alter system set log\_archive\_dest\_state\_2=defer;  
  
**Step 5 Verify that the physical standby can be converted to the new primary**  
  
  
SQL> select switchover\_status from v$database;  
  
SWITCHOVER\_STATUS  
--------------------  
TO PRIMARY  
  
Note that if the status returns SESSIONS ACTIVE then you should append the with session shutdown clause to the command in step 6.  
  
**Step 6 Convert the physical standby to the new primary**  
  
SQL> alter database commit to switchover to primary;  
  
**Step 7 Shutdown and startup the new primary**  
  
SQL> shutdown immediate  
ORA-01109: database not open  
  
SQL> startup  
  
**Step 8 Enable remote archiving on the new primary to the new standby**  
  
SQL> alter system set log\_archive\_dest\_state\_2=enable;  
  
**Step 9 Start managed recover on the new standby database**  
  
SQL> recover managed standby database disconnect;  
Media recovery complete.  
SQL>  
  
  
**Note:** It’s a good idea to perform a log switch on the new primary.  
  
  
SQL>alter system switch logfile;  
  
  
**The SWITCHOVER\_STATUS** column of v$database can have the following values:  
  
**NOT ALLOWED** - Either this is a standby database and the primary database has  
not been switched first, or this is a primary database and there are no standby databases.   
  
**SESSIONS ACTIVE** - Indicates that there are active SQL sessions attached to   
the primary or standby database that need to be disconnected before the   
switchover operation is permitted.   
  
**SWITCHOVER PENDING** - This is a standby database and the primary database   
switchover request has been received but not processed.   
  
**SWITCHOVER LATENT** - The switchover was in pending mode, but did not complete  
and went back to the primary database.   
  
**TO PRIMARY** - This is a standby database, with no active sessions, that is   
allowed to switch over to a primary database.   
  
**TO STANDBY** - This is a primary database, with no active sessions, that is   
allowed to switch over to a standby database.   
  
**RECOVERY NEEDED** - This is a standby database that has not received the   
switchover request.