

How the ALAC files an objection to a new gTLD application.

ICANN's At Large Community (At-Large) through the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) has the ability to file objections to new gTLD applications during the Objection Period which ends March 13 2013.

Although there are four grounds for filing objections to new gTLD applications, the ALAC has standing to object on only two of these grounds : (1) Limited Public Interest grounds and (2) Community grounds.

In order to qualify for the Limited Public Interest Objection, the applied-for gTLD string must be contrary to generally accepted legal norms of morality and public order that are recognized under principles of international law -- typically well accepted multinational treaties. Anyone is eligible to file objections on Limited Public Interest grounds.

In order to qualify for a Community Objection, there must be substantial opposition to the new gTLD application from a significant portion of the community to which the gTLD string may be explicitly or implicitly targeted.

The New gTLD Review Group (gTLD RG - <https://community.icann.org/x/u7-bAQ>) was organised to facilitate the objection process within At-Large. This process involves the following main steps:

- 1) The gTLD RG seeks comments from At-Large during the Objection Period. Comments received from At-Large are added to the new gTLD Dashboard at <http://bit.ly/newgtld> where other members of At-Large can read and post further comments.
- 2) After January 16 2013, the gTLD RG reviews the comments on the new gTLD Dashboard and for each gTLD application with At-Large comments, the gTLD RG decides whether or not to draft a formal objection statement directed to that gTLD application on either limited public interest grounds or community grounds or both.
- 3) Where the gTLD RG determines that an objection statement is appropriate, the gTLD RG proceeds to draft the objection statement, keeping At-Large informed via the gTLD Dashboard.
- 4) Around February 1 2013, the gTLD RG publishes final objection statements to gTLD applications in a format ready to submit to the Dispute Resolution Service Provider (DRSP).
- 5) Each of the 5 Regional At-Large Organisations (RALOs) reviews each objection statement and decides whether it supports the filing of the objection statement by the ALAC.
- 6) By March 1 2013, each RALO sends to the ALAC its advice on the objection statements on whether the RALO supports the filing of an objection statement by the ALAC or not.
- 7) Objection statements **NOT** supported by at least 3 RALOs will not be considered by the ALAC. For those objection statements that **are** supported by 3 or more RALOs, the ALAC decides whether to file such objection statements to the DRSP. If this is a positive decision, then the ALAC (with the support of ICANN) files the objection statement to the DRSP before the end of the objection period.

Visit the new gTLD Dashboard at <http://bit.ly/newgtld>
to submit comments on gTLD applications on objection grounds
or to contact the gTLD Review Group.