



## Registry Services Evaluation Policy (RSEP) Request

November 10, 2017

### Registry Operator

GMO Registry, Inc.  
26-1 Sakuragaoka-cho  
Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 1508512

### Request Details

Case Number: 00877016

This service request should be used to submit a Registry Services Evaluation Policy (RSEP) request. An RSEP is required to add, modify or remove Registry Services for a TLD. More information about the process is available at <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/rsep-2014-02-19-en>

Complete the information requested below. All answers marked with a red asterisk are required. Click the Save button to save your work and click the Submit button to submit to ICANN.

### PROPOSED SERVICE

#### 1. Name of Proposed Service

Complying with Local Law

#### 2. Technical description of Proposed Service. If additional information needs to be considered, attach one PDF file

Registry Operator is seeking to comply with certain applicable local laws which require the submission of accurate data for storage in the Registry database and the subsequent checking of that information to ensure it is correct. Registry Operator implements this under its abuse policy and existing technical functionality which authorizes the suspension of names for violating applicable laws. ICANN has insisted that doing so constitutes a change in the Registry Services that comprise Domain Registration, and therefore requires an RSEP. Registry Operator disagrees with this premise, and believes the service is authorized under the abuse

parameters of the contract. Nevertheless Registry Operator is submitting this RSEP for ICANN's review and approval.

The process works as described below:

1. Domain names continue to be registered at GMO Registry by registrars. Names appear in WHOIS and the zone file as normal after registration.
2. Certain national laws require that within a proscribed timeframe that:
  - a. Domain names are in themselves legal in national law (Domain Name Validation "DNV")
  - b. Registrant's Real Names are validated (Real Name Validation "RNV")
3. Registry Operator (either directly or via a third party with suitable qualifications authorized by Registry Operator) tracks domain name registrations for which the particular national law applies and ensures that within the prescribed time frame the domain names must pass any relevant DNV and RNV. If certain names do not pass, then they are treated as abusive registrations as they are not consistent with the applicable law.
4. Where a name is to be treated as an abusive registration in this setup, a notification is sent to the Registry Services Provider and appropriate action is taken in accordance with the current status of the domain to appropriately alter the server statuses that are applied, delete or otherwise alter the state of the domain name.

## CONSULTATION

3. Please describe with specificity your consultations with the community, experts and or others. What were the quantity, nature and content of the consultations?

See below

3a. If the registry is a sponsored TLD, what were the nature and content of these consultations with the sponsored TLD community?

N/A

3b. Were consultations with gTLD registrars or the registrar constituency appropriate? Which registrars were consulted? What were the nature and content of the consultation?

Since the launch of .shop was announced in April 2016, the Chinese domain industry has expressed strong interest in the .shop TLD and a strong desire to have the TLD available for registration and use in China. Chinese registrars have been strongly encouraging GMO Registry to comply with local Chinese law. Without verification, registrants in China would be unable to register or use .shop domain names and so the registry and registrars receive many complaints from registrants.

3c. Were consultations with other constituency groups appropriate? Which groups were consulted? What were the nature and content of these consultations?

Consultation with any constituency group other than ICANN, our registrars and our registrants is not appropriate as no other constituency group is affected by this proposed arrangement.

3d. Were consultations with end users appropriate? Which groups were consulted? What were the nature and content of these consultations?

Yes, consultations with end users are appropriate -- specifically end users in China. We have, directly and through our registrars, communicated with many registrants in China about these registrants' desire to be able to use their domains. Without exception, they desire for us to implement these processes so that they can use their domain names.

3e. Who would endorse the introduction of this service? What were the nature and content of these consultations?

Based on the above described consultations, we are confident that the entire Internet user base of China would endorse these processes and that Chinese registrars would strongly endorse these processes.

3f. Who would object the introduction of this service? What were (or would be) the nature and content of these consultations?

We believe that no parties have any legitimate reason or right to object to Registry Operator's compliance with national laws.

## **TIMELINE**

4. Please describe the timeline for implementation of the proposed new registry service.

Registry Operator is already carrying out the processes required to comply with national law, as also required by the Registry Agreement.

## **BUSINESS DESCRIPTION**

5. Describe how the Proposed Service will be offered.

Registry Operator requires that domain names that are registered are legal in form and contain accurate data as required by local laws. If a name is not legal in form Registry Operator will suspend the name under its abuse policies. If a name does not contain data sufficiently accurate under local law Registry Operator will suspend the domain name under its abuse policies as it is de facto in breach of local law.

6. Describe quality assurance plan or testing of Proposed Service.

Registry Operator requires registrars to ensure that they provide accurate data for registrants. Registry Operator has also engaged a local provider suitably qualified to advise on accuracy and compliance with local laws.

7. Please list any relevant RFCs or White Papers on the proposed service and explain how those papers are relevant.

There are no known relevant RFCs or white papers on complying with data accuracy requirements under local law.

## CONTRACTUAL PROVISIONS

8. List the relevant contractual provisions impacted by the Proposed Service.

List the relevant contractual provisions impacted by the Proposed Service:

No contractual provisions are impacted since Registry Operator is not providing any new Registry Service.

However, if ICANN were to require a change, then the following would be added to Exhibit A: "Anti-Abuse Registry Operator may suspend, delete or otherwise make changes to domain names in compliance with its anti-abuse policy and all applicable laws."

9. What effect, if any, will the Proposed Service have on the reporting of data to ICANN.

None

10. What effect, if any, will the Proposed Service have on the Whois?

None

11. What effect, if any, will the proposed service have on the price of a domain name registration?

None

## **CONTRACT AMENDMENTS**

12. Please describe or provide the necessary contractual amendments for the proposed service

Since this is not a new registry service, no amendment to the Registry Agreement is necessary. If however, ICANN were to require the Registry Agreement to be amended then we suggest that it be covered in Exhibit A as follows:

"Anti-Abuse: Registry Operator may suspend, delete or otherwise make changes to domain names in compliance with its anti-abuse policy and all applicable laws."

## **BENEFITS OF PROPOSED SERVICE**

13. Describe the benefits of the Proposed Service.

Benefits of Service

Describe the benefits of the Proposed Service:

This processes will allow registrants in China of .shop to register and renew domain names and to legally use their domain names once they are registered. Additionally, the processes will permit registrants and registrars of .shop domain names to comply with local laws

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## **COMPETITION**

14. Do you believe your proposed new Registry Service would have any positive or negative effects on competition? If so, please explain.

Ensuring data is legal and accurate and in compliance with local law will ensure competition exists within local national markets.

15. How would you define the markets in which your proposed Registry Service would compete?

Any market/s where registrants are legally required to provide accurate registration information.

16. What companies/entities provide services or products that are similar in substance or effect to your proposed Registry Service?

All registries are required to comply with applicable national laws. To our knowledge, a few other registry operators also implement these processes in accordance with their Anti-Abuse policies.

17. In view of your status as a registry operator, would the introduction of your proposed Registry Service potentially impair the ability of other companies/entities that provide similar products or services to compete?

No

18. Do you propose to work with a vendor or contractor to provide the proposed Registry Service? If so, what is the name of the vendor/contractor, and describe the nature of the services the vendor/contractor would provide.

Yes. In our current implementation ZDNS, a validated vendor, will carry out the DNV and RNV processes and work with us to comply with local law.

19. Have you communicated with any of the entities whose products or services might be affected by the introduction of your proposed Registry Service? If so, please describe the communications.

N/A

20. Do you have any documents that address the possible effects on competition of your proposed Registry Service? If so, please submit them with your application. (ICANN will keep the documents confidential).

None

## **SECURITY AND STABILITY**

21. Does the proposed service alter the storage and input of Registry Data?

No

22. Please explain how the proposed service will affect the throughput, response time, consistency or coherence of responses to Internet servers or end systems.

N/A

23. Have technical concerns been raised about the proposed service, and if so, how do you intend to address those concerns?

N/A

## **OTHER ISSUES**

24. Are there any Intellectual Property considerations raised by the Proposed Service?

None

25. Does the proposed service contain intellectual property exclusive to your gTLD registry?

No

26. List Disclaimers provided to potential customers regarding the Proposed Service.

None

27. Please provide any other relevant information to include with the request.

None

Click the Save button to save your work and click the Submit button to submit to ICANN.

**Affected TLDs**

<b>Current Registry Operator</b>	<b>Top Level Domain</b>	<b>Registry Agreement Date</b>
GMO Registry, Inc.	shop	2016-04-08