

# Domain Name Lifecycle Operations

## Domain Name Registration

A domain name may be registered for a period ranging from 1 to 10 years. Upon receiving a domain registration (create) command from a registrar — either via the Extensible Provisioning Protocol (EPP) or through the registrar's web dashboard — a series of checks are performed:

- **Syntax Validation:** Ensuring all required parameters in the EPP create command are present and correctly formatted.
- **Domain Name Validity:** Verifying that the domain name complies with the applicable naming rules and syntax requirements.
- **Availability:** Confirming that the domain is not already registered and is available for allocation.
- **Registrar Balance Verification:** Ensuring the registrar's account has sufficient funds to process the registration.

If all validations pass, the domain name is registered. Upon successful registration, the domain is assigned two EPP status values:

- **addPeriod** (as per RFC 3915; corresponding RDAP status value — add period) — indicating the domain is within a 5-day add grace period.
- **ok** (as per RFC 5731; corresponding RDAP status value — active) — indicating no pending operations or prohibitions.

The EPP status value `pendingCreate` (RFC 5731) and corresponding RDAP status value (`pending create`) are **not** used during this process.

The `addPeriod` lasts for five days after registration. If the registrar deletes the domain during this window, the registration fee is refunded to the registrar's account, and the domain is removed from the registry database, becoming available for new registration by any eligible registrar.

---

## Domain Name Renewal

Domains may be renewed manually by registrars at any point during their lifecycle. Renewals are permitted for 1 to 9 years, provided the resulting expiration date does not exceed 10 years from the date of the renewal request.

Before a renewal request is processed, several checks are conducted:

- **Domain Status Validation:** Ensuring that no prohibitive EPP status values are set (`clientRenewProhibited` (corresponding RDAP status value — client renew prohibited), `serverRenewProhibited` (corresponding RDAP status value — server renew prohibited), or `pendingDelete` (corresponding RDAP status value — pending delete)).
- **Renewal Term Compliance:** Ensuring that the requested renewal does not cause the total domain validity period to exceed 10 years.

- **Registrar Account Balance Verification:** Confirming sufficient funds exist to cover the renewal fee.

Upon successful validation, the domain's expiration date is extended accordingly, and the domain is assigned the **renewPeriod** EPP status value (RFC 3915; corresponding RDAP status value — renew period), indicating that it is within a 5-day renewal grace period.

During **renewPeriod**, if the domain is deleted by the registrar, the renewal fee is credited back to the registrar's account, and the domain deletion procedure is initiated.

The **pendingRenew** EPP status value (RFC 5731) and the corresponding RDAP status value (pending renew) are **not** used during the renewal process.

---

## Domain Transfer Between Registrars

Domains can be transferred from one registrar (the “losing registrar”) to another (the “gaining registrar”) per the procedures defined in RFC 5731 and relevant registry rules.

Upon successful domain transfer:

- The domain is automatically renewed for **one additional year** unless otherwise specified for a longer period (up to nine additional years), provided the resulting expiration date does not exceed 10 years.
- The same renewal rules (described above) apply to renewals during transfer.
- If the domain cannot be renewed due to maximum term limits or prohibiting EPP status values (**clientRenewProhibited** (corresponding RDAP status value — client renew prohibited), **serverRenewProhibited** (corresponding RDAP status value — server renew prohibited)), the transfer proceeds, but the domain expiration date remains unchanged. However, the equivalent of a one-year renewal fee is still charged to the gaining registrar.

EPP status values prohibiting domain transfer include:

- **clientTransferProhibited** (corresponding RDAP status value — client transfer prohibited)
- **serverTransferProhibited** (corresponding RDAP status value — server transfer prohibited)
- **pendingDelete** (corresponding RDAP status value — pending delete)
- **pendingTransfer** (corresponding RDAP status value — pending transfer)

Upon receiving a transfer request, the system performs checks to ensure:

- The domain is not subject to prohibitive statuses.
- The gaining registrar has sufficient account balance.

If checks pass, the domain is assigned **pendingTransfer** EPP status value (RFC 5731; corresponding RDAP status value — pending transfer) and awaits action:

- **Approved by Losing Registrar:** transfer status changes to **clientApproved**.
- **Rejected by Losing Registrar:** transfer status changes to **clientRejected**.

- **Cancelled by Losing Registrar:** transfer status changes to clientCancelled.
- **Approved by Registry Operator:** transfer status changes to serverApproved.
- **Rejected by Registry Operator:** transfer status changes to serverRejected.
- **Automatically Approved:** If no action is taken within five days, the transfer is automatically approved and marked as serverApproved.

Upon transfer approval:

- Sponsorship changes to the gaining registrar.
- Contact objects associated with the domain are copied from the losing registrar and associated with the domain at the gaining registrar.
- pendingTransfer EPP status value and corresponding RDAP status value (pending transfer) are removed.
- All Redemption Grace Period (RGP) EPP status values (addPeriod, autoRenewPeriod, renewPeriod) are cleared.
- The domain is assigned **transferPeriod** EPP status value (RFC 3915; corresponding RDAP status value — transfer period), valid for 5 days.

If a domain with transferPeriod EPP status value is deleted during the grace window, the transfer amount is credited back to the gaining registrar.

In cases of transfer rejection or cancellation, pendingTransfer EPP status value is removed along with the corresponding RDAP status value (pending transfer), and the transfer fee is refunded to the gaining registrar's account.

---

## Domain Expiration

Upon reaching its expiration date, a domain can either be automatically renewed or deleted based on the registrar's settings.

If auto-renewal is enabled:

- The registrar must have sufficient balance to cover a one-year renewal fee.
- If funds are sufficient, the domain is automatically renewed, assigned the **autoRenewPeriod** EPP status value (RFC 3915; corresponding RDAP status value — auto renew period), and extended by one year.
- If funds are insufficient, the domain enters the deletion process immediately.

A domain assigned autoRenewPeriod EPP status remains in this state for **45 days**.

If the domain is deleted during autoRenewPeriod, the renewal fee is refunded to the registrar.

---

# Domain Deletion

Domains can be deleted either manually (via registrar EPP command or dashboard) or automatically (following expiration).

A domain cannot be deleted if:

- serverDeleteProhibited EPP status value is active (deletion completely blocked; corresponding RDAP status value — server delete prohibited).
- clientDeleteProhibited EPP status is active (blocks manual deletion but allows deletion by expiration; corresponding RDAP status value — client delete prohibited).

Deletion triggers:

- Removal of all NS (Name Server) and DNS records from the live zone.
- Assignment of pendingDelete (RFC 5731; corresponding RDAP status value — pending delete) and redemptionPeriod (RFC 3915; corresponding RDAP status value — redemption period) EPP status value.

## Redemption Period

A domain remains in redemptionPeriod for **30 days**:

- During this period, the domain can be restored by the sponsoring registrar.
- If not restored, it transitions to pendingDelete for final deletion.

## Pending Delete

After redemptionPeriod EPP status value (RDAP status value — redemption period), a domain remains in pendingDelete for **5 days**, during which restoration is no longer possible. Afterwards, the domain is purged from the registry database and becomes available for registration.

---

# Domain Restoration

Domains with redemptionPeriod EPP status value (RDAP status value — redemption period) can be restored by the sponsoring registrar:

- Restoration commands are issued via EPP or the registrar dashboard.
- The registrar's balance is checked to ensure payment capability.
- A restoration fee is charged at the time of the restore request.
- Upon successful restoration:
  - The domain is automatically renewed for one additional year at the registrar's prevailing rate.
  - The pendingRestore status value is **returned** in the EPP response but **not assigned** to the domain object, and the corresponding RDAP status value is **not** used.

If a domain is deleted again after restoration, the restoration fee is **not refundable**.

---

# Domain Locking

Domains can be locked at any point in their lifecycle, **except during the deletion process**.

Locking is performed through the assignment of the following EPP status values:

- **clientHold** (corresponding RDAP status value — client hold): Applied by the registrar through EPP command or dashboard.
- **serverHold** (corresponding RDAP status value — server hold): Applied by the registry operator.

Locking effects:

- The domain's DNS records are removed from the live DNS zone.
- NS and DNS information remains in the registry database.
- Changes to NS records can still be made while locked, but they are not published.
- If a locked domain is transferred, clientHold (corresponding RDAP status value — client hold) or serverHold (corresponding RDAP status value — server hold) EPP status values are preserved under the gaining registrar.

Upon unlocking (removal of all hold statuses), any updated NS/DNS information is re-published to the DNS.