1 Background

6 Request For Comment (“RFC”) 1591 [1] states:
7 2) Country Codes - The IANA is not in the business of deciding what is and what
8 is not a country. The selection of the ISO 3166 list as a basis for country code
9 top-level domain names was made with the knowledge that ISO has a procedure
10 for determining which entities should be and should not be on that list.

11 In 2014 the ccNSO through its FOI confirmed that RFC1591 still applies to ccTLDs.
The ISO 3166 list is dynamic: regularly country codes are added and removed\(^1\) entries. When a new country code is added a ccTLD can be added via the standard delegation process by the IANA Functions Operator (IFO). However, as was identified in 2011 by the ccNSO Delegation and Redelegation WG, there is no formal policy available for the removal of a ccTLD from the root when a country code is removed from the ISO 3166 list of country names.

### 2 Policy Objective

The objective of the policy is to provide clear, and predictable guidance and to document the process from and as of a country code is removed from the ISO3166 listed country names\(^2\) up and to, but excluding, the removal of a ccTLD from the Root Zone\(^3\) in an orderly and reasonable fashion.

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\(^1\)ISO 3166, Section 3.4

\(^2\)The procedures and process related to the removal of a country code are excluded, as this is determined by ISO.

\(^3\)The removal of a (cc)TLD by IFO is excluded from the policy, as this outside the remit of the policy scope of the ccNSO.
3 General and Specific part of the policy

When a country code is removed from the ISO 3166 list, the ccTLD will be removed from the Root zone. The general policy recommendations are developed under the following assumptions:

- It is the expectation that there will be a cooperation between the IFO and the Manager of the retiring ccTLD to ensure an orderly shutdown of the registry, while considering the interests of its registrants and the stability and security of the DNS.

- The ccTLD is managed by a functional Manager⁴.

⁴A ccTLD Manager is the entity that is listed under the heading “ccTLD Manager” in the Root Zone Database (https://www.iana.org/domains/root/db)
standard process for Transfer which does not require government support or
the previous manager’s agreement.

Each of these assumptions needs to be verified at the on-set and during the pro-
cess. If one of these assumptions is not or no longer valid, the specific part of
the policy recommendations applies, whereby specific policy recommendations are
paramount.

46 4 Retirement Process Requirements

5 ccTLD Retirement Process

• Notice - Once the IFO has been informed and confirmed that a country code has
bene removed for the ISO 3166 list, it shall notify the Manager of the ccTLD that
the ccTLD shall be retired within the next 5 years, from the date of the notice.

Question: Should there be a requirement to publicly post the Notice?

In conjunction with the notice the IFO should inform the manager that it is expected,
but not mandatory to produce a satisfactory retirement plan for the ccTLD. The IFO
should include with the notice a document describing the reasonable requirements
it expects of a retirement plan and that it will make itself available to the Manager
to assist in the development of such a plan should the Manager request it.

- The Notice should also clearly state that:
  - If the Manager does not produce a satisfactory retirement plan the ccTLD will
    be removed from the root 5 years from the date of Notice.
  - If the Manager intends on producing a retirement plan it should formally com-
    municate this to the IFO.

- If the Manager and the IFO agree on a retirement plan the IFO, at its discretion,
can extend the retirement date for a period of up to 5 additional years for a total
period of 10 years from the date of notice prior to removing the retiring ccTLD
from the root.

- The Manager and the IFO can, by mutual agreement, decide to retire the ccTLD
at any time even if less than the initial 5 year period.

- Retirement Plan – A retirement plan should, as a minimum, include commit-
ments to the following:
  - Date the ccTLD will stop accepting new registrations
  - Date the ccTLD will stop accepting the renewal of existing registrations
  - Date the ccTLD will stop accepting the transfer of registrations
  - Date the ccTLD will be removed from the Root Zone.
74  – Date the ccTLD will advise all its registrants of the retirement plan.
75  If the Manager wishes to submit a retirement plan to the IFO it should do so within
76  12 months of receiving the Notice of retirement from the IFO. The Manager can, for
77  good reasons, submit in writing a request for an extension to the 12 month period
78  from the IFO. The IFO shall not withhold granting a reasonable extension (maximum
79  12 additional months) if the application provides a valid basis for granting such an
80  extension.
81  If the manager wishes an extension to the 5 year retirement period from the time of
82  Notice it should either negotiate this with the IFO prior to submitting its Retirement
83  plan or request this in writing from the IFO as part of its Retirement plan. The IFO
84  shall not withhold granting a reasonable extension (maximum of 5 additional years)
85  to the date of retirement if the request provides valid reasons for this.

6 Specific Policy Recommendations & Process

Requirements

• Exception conditions
  – Manager becomes non-functional after a retirement agreement is accepted
  – The IFO can the same procedure outlined in the Requirements to transfer
    the ccTLD to a new manager.
Manager breaches the Retirement Agreement – The IFO should work with the Manager with the objective of re-instating the Retirement agreement. If this is not possible the IFO can advise it will return to the initial 5 year retirement period.

IDN ccTLD

Non-Functional Manager

7 Oversight
Nomenclature

RFC In information and communications technology, a Request for Comments (RFC) is a type of publication from the technology community. RFCs may come from many bodies including from the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), the Internet Research Task Force (IRTF), the Internet Architecture Board (IAB) or from independent authors.[citation needed] The RFC system is supported by the Internet Society (ISOC).

References