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Issued: 17/06/2025	Enters into force: 18 August 2025	Validity: until further notice
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Legal basis  
Act on Electronic Communications Services (917/2014)

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Provisions on sanctions for operations violating this Regulation are laid down in:  
Act on Electronic Communications Services, section 171

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Implemented EU legislation:

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Modification details:  
This Regulation repeals the FICORA Regulation 68/2016 M of 15 June 2016.

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## Domain Name Regulation M 68

### 1 Scope

This Regulation applies to domain names that end with .fi or .ax, to the registration and administration of such domain names, and to the operations of .fi and .ax domain name registrars.

### 2 Definitions

For the purposes of this Regulation:

- (1) *domain holder transfer key* means a code defined by the authority in charge of the domain name register that enables the transfer of a domain name from one holder to another;
- (2) *registrar transfer key* means a code that enables the administration of a domain name to be transferred from one domain name registrar to another;
- (3) *old domain name registrar* means the registrar that ceases the administration of a domain name when a domain is transferred from one registrar to another;
- (4) *new domain name registrar* means the registrar assuming the administration of a domain name when a domain is transferred from one registrar to another;
- (5) *domain name register* means a register of domain names ending with the country code fi or ax; and
- (6) *DNS service provider* means an entity that provides
  - (a) publicly available recursive domain name resolution services for internet end-users; or
  - (b) authoritative domain name resolution services for third-party use, with the exception of root name servers.

In addition, this Regulation complies with the definitions laid down in chapter 21 of the Act on Electronic Communications Services (917/2014).

### **3 Requirements concerning a domain name registrar**

#### **3.1 Form and submission of a notification regarding the operations of a domain name registrar to the authority in charge of the domain name register**

A domain name registrar shall submit a notification about its operations and any changes thereto to the authority in charge of the domain name register via an online service that is available for .fi domain names at [www.traficom.fi](http://www.traficom.fi) and for .ax domain names at [www.whois.ax](http://www.whois.ax).

The notification includes one or more self-evaluation tools or procedures defined by the authority in charge of the domain name register to enable the domain name registrar to verify its compliance with the obligations set for registrars. The domain name registrar shall submit the documentation related to the execution of the self-evaluation tool or procedure included in the notification.

The domain name registrar shall provide the authority in charge of the domain name register with the following information:

- 1) information on whether the registrar also acts as a DNS service provider in addition to the provision of domain name registration services, and
- 2) the names of the name servers it maintains.

#### **3.2 Notifications to customers on changes in a domain name registrar's operations**

A domain name registrar shall inform each customer separately about the termination of operations.

If the authority in charge of the domain name register prohibits a domain name registrar from operating, the said domain name registrar shall, immediately after having been informed of the decision, make this known separately to each of its customers.

#### **3.3 Domain name registrar's obligation to advise holders**

In addition to the requirements of provisions laid down in section 3, paragraph 21 and section 166 of the Act on Electronic Communications Services, a domain name registrar shall, before registering a domain name, provide holders with the following detailed information on the requirements concerning the content and form of the domain name:

- (1) requirements concerning the form of the domain name provided for in section 4.1 of this Regulation;
- (2) information on the names that have been entered into the Finnish Trade Register, Register of Associations, Register of Foundations or Party Register;
- (3) information on trademarks entered into the Finnish Trademark Register or the trademark register of the European Union;
- (4) information on geographical indications included in the Union register of geographical indications.

### **3.4 Holder-specific information to be entered in the domain name register**

In addition to an email address as referred to in section 167 of the Act on Electronic Communications Services, a domain name registrar shall enter in the domain name register the following information on natural persons:

- (1) the holder's first and last name;
- (2) personal identity code or, if no personal identity code exists, other identifying information;
- (3) postal address;
- (4) telephone number.

In addition to an email address as referred to in section 167 of the Act on Electronic Communications Services, a domain name registrar shall enter in the domain name register the following information on legal persons or other organisations:

- (1) the holder's company name;
- (2) business identity code or, if no business identity code exists, other identifying information;
- (3) postal address;
- (4) telephone number.

A domain name registrar shall identify the domain name holder, and verify the correctness of the information entered in the domain name register and the technical functionality of the domain name holder's email address as referred to in section 167 of the Act on Electronic Communications Services.

### **3.5 Reseller-specific information to be entered in the domain name register**

A domain name registrar shall indicate in the information on a domain name whether a reseller is used for the administration of the domain name. The domain name registrar shall enter in the domain name register the following information on the reseller:

- 1) reseller's name;
- 2) reseller's postal address;
- 3) reseller's telephone number;
- 4) reseller's email address.

The domain name registrar shall keep the information on the reseller up to date.

### **3.6 Domain name registrar's interface to the domain name register of the authority in charge of the domain name register**

A domain name registrar shall use as the technical interface to the Finnish Transport and Communications Agency's (hereinafter 'Traficom') domain name register either the browser-based user interface provided on the Traficom website or an EPP (Extensible Provisioning Protocol) interface defined and maintained by Traficom.

If the domain name registrar uses Traficom's EPP interface, the domain name registrar's client software shall be compatible with Traficom's currently valid interface description. Its compliance shall be verified with the EPP test system provided by Traficom.

A domain name registrar shall use the browser-based user interface provided at [www.whois.ax](http://www.whois.ax) as the technical interface to the register of domain names that end with `.ax`.

### **3.7 Transferring a domain name to another holder**

If a domain name holder wishes to transfer its domain name to another holder, the original holder must request the transfer from the domain name registrar. After having received a transfer request, the domain name registrar shall verify that the holder has the right to transfer the domain name. The domain name registrar creates a domain holder transfer key from the domain name register and provides it to the domain name holder.

The domain name registrar shall transfer the domain name to the new holder within five working days of the domain name holder submitting the domain holder transfer key and the details of the new holder to the domain name registrar.

The domain name registrar shall clearly inform the domain name holder about how and where the holder can obtain the domain holder transfer key.

### **3.8 Changing domain name registrars**

If a domain name holder wishes to switch domain name registrars, the holder shall either:

- (1) request the new registrar to obtain a registrar transfer key from the old registrar; or
- (2) request the registrar transfer key from the old registrar and provide it to the new registrar.

The request to switch domain name registrars must be made in writing.

The old domain name registrar shall verify that the holder or the new domain name registrar has the right to request the registrar transfer key and shall submit it to the requesting party within five working days of a legitimate request.

If the old domain name registrar has not provided the new domain name registrar or the holder with the registrar transfer key within the specified time, the holder or the new domain name registrar may request the authority in charge of the domain name register to provide the holder with the registrar transfer key.

The domain name registrar shall clearly inform the domain name holder about how and where the holder can obtain the registrar transfer key.

## **4 Requirements concerning a domain name**

### **4.1 Domain name form**

The allowed characters in a domain name are the letters a to z and the numbers 0 to 9.

In addition, the following characters are allowed:

Character	Unicode	Name
-	002D	Hyphen-minus
á	00E1	Latin small letter a with acute
â	00E2	Latin small letter a with circumflex
ä	00E4	Latin small letter o with diaeresis
å	00E5	Latin small letter a with ring above
č	010D	Latin small letter c with caron
ď	0111	Latin small letter d with stroke
ĝ	01E5	Latin small letter g with stroke
ĝ	01E7	Latin small letter g with caron
ķ	01E9	Latin small letter k with caron
ŋ	014B	Latin small letter eng
õ	00F5	Latin small letter o with tilde
ö	00F6	Latin small letter o with diaeresis
š	0161	Latin small letter s with caron
ţ	0167	Latin small letter t with stroke
ž	017E	Latin small letter z with caron
Ʒ	0292	Latin small letter ezh
ž	01EF	Latin small letter ezh with caron

A domain name shall not begin with a hyphen-minus or end with a hyphen-minus.

A domain name shall not begin with the characters xn--. The ACE form (ASCII Compatible Encoding) of a domain name containing national characters always begins with the characters xn--.

## 4.2 Name servers

If a domain name registrar lists name servers for a domain name, they shall be configured in accordance with this Regulation. At least two and at the most ten name servers that are independent of one another shall be configured to serve the domain name.

A domain name shall be configured to all name servers in accordance with this Regulation, and it must be possible to reach them through the internet. It shall be possible to verify the configurations by automatic name server queries made by Traficom.

Name servers shall have NS records (Name Server) indicating all name servers added to a domain name. The NS records shall point to servers for which an IP address has been configured in the name service in an A record or an AAAA record or both.

The SOA record (Start of Authority) that defines the configuration of the name server of the domain name shall comply with the following requirements:

- 1) the MNAME (Master Name) field must contain the name of the primary name server of the domain name;
- 2) the RNAME (Responsible Name) field must contain a working email address that belongs to the administrator of the name servers.

## **5 Information security management by a domain name registrar**

### **5.1 Consideration of information security issues**

A domain name registrar shall take the following into consideration in the different life cycle stages of domain name registration operations:

1. administrative information security;
2. personnel security;
3. security of hardware, software and data communications;
4. security of datasets and usage;
5. physical security.

A domain name registrar shall document and maintain an updated description of how the elements listed in subsection 1 above have been taken into consideration in its operations.

### **5.2 Risk management**

A domain name registrar shall identify the functions, data and systems that are critical to the continuity of its domain name registering operations and shall regularly evaluate and address any information security risks that they may be exposed to and the management of such risks.

The risk management processes and results shall be documented.

### **5.3 Datasets and backups**

A domain name registrar shall have in place a classification system for any datasets that are important for the registration operations and a dataset processing procedure associated with the classification system. The classification criteria and processing procedures shall be documented and the documentation kept up to date.

A domain name registrar shall have in place a backup policy. At least the following should be taken into account in the backup policy:

- (1) the backup frequency is adequate considering the criticality of the data being backed up;
- (2) the speed of the recovery process is adequate for the operational requirements; and
- (3) the correct functioning of backing up and the recovery process is tested on a regular basis.

#### **5.4 Information security control**

A domain name registrar shall constantly monitor its registration operations in order to identify and prevent situations that may disturb or threaten its information security.

The monitoring mechanisms of registration operations shall be documented and the documentation be kept up to date.

#### **5.5 Management of situations disturbing or threatening information security**

A domain name registrar shall prepare and maintain documented instructions for procedures on how to address situations that disturb or threaten the information security of registration operations and for minimising and removing their impacts without undue delay.

The instructions shall contain a description of the organisation of information security management and definitions of the responsibilities of various operators, containing at least the information necessary for reaching the persons managing information security.

#### **5.6 Change management**

A domain name registrar shall carry out changes to the network, software, hardware, configuration, interface and equipment facilities in a controlled and systematic manner to cause the least possible disturbance to the domain name registering operations.

Sufficient time shall be reserved for carrying out changes, maintenance and updates to enable the controlled execution of a planned measure.

A domain name registrar shall define and document the processes and practices governing updates and changes.

A domain name registrar shall actively follow the information security bulletins of the authorities, hardware and software manufacturers and other similar operators and install in a controlled manner the information security updates deemed necessary.

#### **5.7 Katakri requirements in the use of Traficom's EPP interface**

If a registrar of domain names that end with .fi uses Traficom's EPP interface as the technical interface, the domain name registrar shall meet the criteria derived from the requirements of the classification level (IV) of subdivision I, Information Assurance, of the currently valid version of Katakri (information security auditing tool) with respect to the following:

- (1) Communications Security
- (2) System Security.

### **6 Obligation to report disturbances**

In a notification concerning a significant disturbance of information security under section 170, subsection 1, paragraph 7 of the Act on Electronic Communications Services, a domain name registrar shall, in addition to the information laid down in the Act, provide, where possible, information concerning the reason of the disturbance or threat and how it emerged.

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The disturbance notification shall be made within 24 hours of the domain name registrar becoming aware of the disturbance. The notification shall be supplemented later with information that was not available at the time of submitting the notification.

## **7 Entry into force**

This Regulation enters into force on 18 August 2025 and will remain in force until further notice.

Helsinki 17 June 2025

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