



Summary of Key Changes to the Connection Agreement

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide registrars with a high-level summary of the key changes between the current version 4.5 of the Connection Agreement and the updated Connection Agreement, version 4.6 (Updated Agreement).

Please note, the table below does not include reference to:

- Minor/technical changes (e.g. wording/numbering etc.)
- Deletion of Schedule A as technical requirements are provided in the InternetNZ Product Documentation Portal (see Technical Requirements definition); and
- Deletion of Schedule C as hyperlinks are provided within the Updated Agreement as applicable.

The information contained in this document is provided for informational purposes only, and should not be construed as legal advice on any matter.

Updated Agreement - Summary of key changes

Updated Agreement Clause Reference	Summary of change	Reason for change	What does this mean for you?
Background	<p>Added a background section which provides some background information, including the steps the Registrar has completed before entering into the Updated Agreement and how the Updated Agreement should be read.</p>	To provide clarity	To note
Definitions	<p>Updated the following definitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “DNC” ● “Reseller” ● “Domain Name Holder” ● “Register” has been updated to “.nz Register” ● “.nz Domain Name Space” ● “Registry Lock Service” to “Domain Lock Service” 	<p>The updates to these definitions are required for consistency with the equivalent defined terms, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “DNC” and “Reseller” to align with the definitions .nz Rules ● “Domain Name Holder” to align with the definition in the updated Authorisation Agreement ● “Register” has been updated to “.nz Register” to align with the definition in the updated Authorisation 	You may wish to review any defined terms in your agreements with domain name holders/registrants.

		<p>Agreement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “.nz Domain Name Space” to align with the definition in the Constitution 	
	<p>Added the following definitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “Applicable Laws” ● “Authorisation Date” ● “Auto-Renew Grace Period” ● “Foreign Registrar GST Status & Payment Option Form” ● “Control” ● “Confidential Information” ● “Insolvency Event” ● “Start Date” ● “Registration Grace Period” ● “Renewal Grace Period” ● “Working Day” 	<p>This definitions have been added for the following reasons:</p> <p>Applicable Laws has been defined to give meaning to the term used throughout the Updated Agreement.</p> <p>Authorisation Date has been defined to provide clarity as to when the registrar’s authorisation is effective from (as also provided in the updated Authorisation Agreement).</p> <p>Auto-Renew Grace Period, Registration Grace Period and Renewal Grace Period have been defined to give meaning to the terms used in clause 3.2 (re non-refundable charges) of the Updated Agreement.</p> <p>Foreign Registrar GST Status & Payment Option Form to give meaning to the new process in relation to foreign registrar payment options (see clause 3.6 of the Updated Agreement).</p>	

		<p>Control has been defined to provide greater clarity as to when a change of control notification is required to be provided by registrars to InternetNZ (as also provided in the updated Authorisation Agreement).</p> <p>Confidential Information has been defined to improve the readability of the updated confidentiality clause (see clause 8.0 of the Updated Agreement).</p> <p>Insolvency Event has been defined to provide greater clarity as to when an insolvency event notification is required to be provided by registrars to InternetNZ (as also provided in the updated Authorisation Agreement).</p> <p>Start Date has been defined to provide clarity as to when the registrar is given access to the services provided by InternetNZ.</p> <p>Working Day has been defined to provide clarity and is aligned with the definition in the Constitution.</p>	
	<p>Deleted the following definitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Continuing Clauses” 	<p>Continuing Clauses is no longer required as reference to surviving clauses is provided for within the</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Nominated Contacts” • “Registry Advisory Group” • “Prerequisite Requirements” • “The Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF)” 	<p>relevant clause (e.g. clause 6.5).</p> <p>All other deleted definitions are no longer relevant for the Updated Agreement.</p>	
1.0	<p>Replaced the prerequisite requirements with requirements and conditions that the registrar must demonstrate and continue to demonstrate/confirm.</p>	<p>The clause has been updated to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide clarity • align with the updated Authorisation Agreement; and • reflect the process (e.g. the registrar must meet technical standards to demonstrate that their interface works correctly with the registry) 	<p>When signing the Updated Agreement you must ensure you have also signed the updated Authorisation Agreement.</p>
2.2	<p>Updated registrar obligations to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • include obligations under the updated Authorisation Agreement, e.g. not engage in any activity that could or does bring the .nz Domain Name Space into disrepute; and • consolidate all registrar obligations that are referred to in different parts of the current Connection 	<p>These updates have been made to align with the updated Authorisation Agreement to modernise the language used, reflect common issues, reflect some of the obligations set out in the .nz Rules and aim to protect domain name holders and maintain trust in the .nz domain name space.</p> <p>Further consolidating all obligations in one clause where possible will make it easier for the</p>	<p>This is a good opportunity to review and understand your obligations under the Updated Agreement and to ensure you are able to meet them.</p>

	<p>Agreement into one clause, e.g. moved requirements re establishing and maintaining security procedures and notifying INZ immediately of any security incident, material risks or unauthorised disclosure, from clause 11 in the current Connection Agreement.</p>	<p>registrar.</p>	
2.3	<p>Added this clause to reflect DNC's and what this means in practice.</p>	<p>This clause has been added to align with clause 12.1.3(c) of the updated .nz Rules.</p>	<p>To note</p>
3.1	<p>Updated the clause to include that all charges for any registration or renewal for a period of one year or more (max of 10 years) shall be paid in full, e.g. if a registrar is renewing a .nz domain name for the period of two years, the registrar must pay the fee for the two year period.</p>	<p>This update has been made for clarity purposes.</p>	<p>To note</p>
3.2	<p>Added this clause to clarify charges are non-refundable unless if the registration is cancelled during certain periods, the registrar would then receive a credit (if applicable).</p>	<p>This clause has been added for clarity purposes and to align with legal advice received.</p>	<p>To note</p>
3.6	<p>Added this clause to provide foreign registrar payment options.</p>	<p>This clause has been added to align with the process and for clarity purposes.</p>	<p>To note (foreign registrars only)</p>

3.7	Added this clause to inform foreign registrar what happens to interest earned on a foreign registrar account.	This clause has been added for clarity purposes.	To note (foreign registrars only)
3.8	Added this clause to inform foreign registrar how they can request a zero-rated tax invoice.	This clause has been added for clarity purposes and to meet GST requirements.	To note (foreign registrars only)
3.9	Updated this clause (currently 3.6) to clarify the date charges will be deducted and include an example.	This update has been made for clarity purposes.	To note
4.0	<p>Updated this clause to include subclauses that appear under clause 6 (Systems) in the current Connection Agreement, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● clause 6.1 is now clause 4.2 ● clause 6.2 now clause 4.4 and refers to technical issues with interface (4.2) and related to the use (4.3). ● clause 6.3 is now clause 4.5. ● clause 6.4 is now clause 4.7. ● clause 6.5 is now clause 4.8 <p>All references to “system” in the subclauses have been replaced with “registry”.</p>	This update has been made for clarity purposes.	To note

4.6	Added this clause which requires that registrars must carry out regular testing of the registry.	<p>This clause has been added to ensure registrars carry out testing prior to each new release and as advised so that any issues can be identified and InternetNZ can respond and rectify any issues prior to any new release. Note this requirement was previously noted in the Registry Technical Statement.</p> <p>This clause reinforces the shared commitment between registrars and InternetNZ to maintain system stability by clarifying the registrar's role in testing new releases and enabling early identification and resolution of any issues.</p>	To ensure you are carrying out regular testing and as requested by InternetNZ prior to each new release of the registry.
5.2	Updated this clause to provide that data backups of all registration data needs to be retained for a period of not less than 7 years (as per the record keeping requirements)	This update has been made for clarity purposes.	To note
8.1 - 8.4	Updated this clause to include confidentiality clauses which sit under clause 11.6 in the current Connection Agreement.	This update has been made to align with the updated Authorisation Agreement	
8.5 & 8.6	Retained these clauses to refer to privacy obligations but deleted privacy related clauses 9.3-96 in the current Connection Agreement	This update has been made to streamline the privacy related clauses.	To note

		As per clause 8.6 InternetNZ shall provide the services in accordance with InternetNZ's privacy statement which includes information about collection, use and disclosure of personal information. Therefore for further details registrars can refer to InternetNZ's privacy statement.	
9.1	Added this clause to define the term.	This clause has been added for clarity purposes.	To note
9.2	Updated this clause to merge clauses 10.1 and 10.2 in the current Connection Agreement and renamed it to "termination for any reason"	This update has been made for clarity purposes.	To note
9.3	Added this clause to provide reasons why InternetNZ may terminate immediately, including ceasing to comply with clause 1.2 which requires the registrar to remain a party to the Authorisation Agreement.	This clause has been added to clarify reasons why InternetNZ may terminate an agreement and provides registrars with more details than the current clause 10.3.	To note
9.4	Updated this clause to include registrars must immediately stop holding itself out as a registrar to anyone other than its current domain name holder and work in good faith to carry out transfers of the .nz domain names under the registrar to another registrar(s).	These updates have been made to align with the updated Authorisation Agreement	To note

9.6	Added this clause which provides information about what happens to any credit balances at termination.	This clause has been added as a result of the non-refundable clause (see clause 3.2 in the Updated Agreement)	To note
10.0	Added this clause to provide how disputes shall be handled and updated the approach to refer disputes to mediation (where applicable) rather than arbitration.	The current Connection Agreement includes a disputes clause as subclause 11.15 under the General clause. To provide clarity and better readability it was decided that disputes sit under a separate clause. It has also been amended to align with the process provided in the updated Authorisation Agreement.	To note
11.5	Updated the last sentence to read “For avoidance of doubt, any change in the Registrar’s Control is deemed to be an assignment for which InternetNZ’s prior written consent is required.”	The revised clause provides greater clarity around assignments and is aligned with the updated Authorisation Agreement.	To note
11.8	Added this clause to provide that InternetNZ may have any agent perform any part of InternetNZ’s obligations under the Updated Agreement.	This clause has been added to reflect InternetNZ processes.	To note
11.11	Updated this clause to provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Variations must be in writing and signed by both parties ● InternetNZ can vary the 	These changes promote fairness and transparency by requiring mutual written agreement to changes, while preserving InternetNZ’s ability to	To note

	<p>Updated Agreement if necessary by giving two month notice before any variation takes effect; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The registrar has an ability to terminate the Updated Agreement if it doesn't wish to continue with the varied terms. 	<p>implement necessary changes in line with its responsibilities to InternetNZ.</p> <p>The registrar has a termination right if it does not accept the proposed changes, ensuring fairness and protection against unilateral amendments.</p>	
11.12	<p>Added this clause to provide that InternetNZ may from time to time offer some optional features (e.g. domain lock) and in order for InternetNZ to provide and the registrar to receive such optional features they must enter into an agreement which shall form part of the CA.</p>	<p>This clause has been added to let registrars know how optional features will be offered and how they can receive such features.</p>	To note
11.14	<p>Added this clause to clarify that the Updated Agreement can be signed in any number of counterparts.</p>	<p>This clause has been added for clarity purposes.</p>	To note
Schedule A	<p>Updated the table of fees (Schedule B in current Connection Agreement)</p>	<p>This update is to reflect the fees that have been in place since 1 July 2025.</p>	To note