

ssNIC

Domain Name Billing Policy

DOT.SS

- 1. Billing Cycle**
- 2. New Domain Invoicing**
- 3. Domain Renewals**
- 4. Suspended Domains**
- 5. What is Redemption Grace Period (RGP)?**
- 6. What is the Redemption Hold Period (RHP)?**
- 7. How do I know if a name is in RGP?**
- 8. How do I know if a name is in RHP?**
- 9. How do I redeem my name if it has been placed in RGP?**
- 10. How do I know when a name will be released for re-registration?**
- 11. Will my domain name still resolve if it is in RGP?**
- 12. Will I still be able to get e-mail if my name is in RGP?**
- 13. Why is my registrar charging me to redeem my name through RGP?**
- 14. If my name is in RHP, why how can I restore it?**
- 16. Will I be charged a renewal fee in addition to the RGP fee itself? Do I lose any time that remained on my registration?**

1. Billing Cycle

The .SS ccTLD billing cycle is on a twelve (12) month basis (annual) for any

domain name registration or renewal fee.

2. New Domain Invoicing

New Domains will be invoiced once the Registration ticket has been closed. An Email with the Domain Invoice details will be sent to the Billing Contact. A URL link will be available to enable Printout of the Invoice. The Invoice is payable (Due Date) within 3 weeks of the Registration. Payment Reminders will be sent to Billing and Administrative Contacts after Due Date for an additional 2 months after which the domain will be suspended.

3. Domain Renewals

Existing Domains will receive a Renewal fee Invoice three months to the Expiry Date. The Invoice is payable (Due Date) within 20 days. Two email Reminders will be sent to Billing and Administrative Contact after the Due Date within an additional 2 Months Period.

If payments are not received after this period the domain will be suspended.

4. Suspended Domains

Domain names that have not been paid for within the set Billing Cycle will be Suspended but maintained in the database for an additional 180 days. If a domain is not reclaimed within this period, it will be quarantined for 3 months after which the name will be released back into the pool for re- registration.

5. What is Redemption Grace Period (RGP)?

The Redemption Grace Period is a ninety (90) day period that begins after a domain name has been suspended. This facility has been implemented to allow the original registrants (domain name holders) to redeem a suspended domain name.

The reason for the introduction of the RGP process is to provide additional time for a registrant to redeem a domain name before the name is made available for re-registration on a First-Come-First-Served basis. Hence a name enters RGP; it is removed from the zone file (if it was originally in the zone file). As a result, any Internet services served by the domain name will be disabled (e.g. e-mail or a web site). The registrant must act

IMMEDIATELY if he or she wants to keep the name.

6. What is the Redemption Hold Period (RHP)?

Following the suspension of a name by the registry, if this registrar does not request that the name be restored during the 90-day RGP, then the name enters a Redemption Hold Period, or RHP. RHP lasts for ninety (90) days, and during this time the name is locked. After ninety (90) days, the name will become available for re-registration on a First-Come-First-Served basis. Once the name enters RHP, the domain name can only be available either after the ninety (90) days or if ANY registrar requests for it and pays the domain names' maintenance (renewal) fee for three (3) years. Note that all domain names released from when already at the RGP MUST be registered afresh. It is the onus of the registrar to ensure that they register the released domain name before any other registrar does.

7. How do I know if a name is in RGP?

If a name is in RGP, the Status field in the WHOIS will show the name as "On-hold." Additionally, all Internet services associated with the name will remain disabled.

8. How do I know if a name is in RHP?

If a name is in RHP, the Status field in the WHOIS will show the name as "awaiting"

9. How do I redeem my name if it has been placed in RGP?

If your domain name has been placed in RGP, it is because the registrant has not paid the domain names' maintenance fee.

If you wish to renew the name, YOU MUST CONTACT YOUR REGISTRAR IMMEDIATELY.

The registrar of record for the name (as indicated in the WHOIS) is the ONLY registrar who can restore the name. Please note that your registrar may charge a fee for the restoration of the name.

Please also note that NCA (the registry) cannot directly restore your name. Name restorations can only be done by explicit instructions from the sponsoring registrar.

10. How do I know when a name will be released for re-registration?

In order for a name to be released for registration (on a First-Come-First-Served basis), it must complete the RGP period (90 days) as well as the RHP period (90 days). In total, a name can be released for re-registration 180 days after it has been suspended by the registry.

11. Will domain name still resolve if it is in RGP?

No. Once a domain name is suspended, it is placed in RGP and removed from the zone file, and thus no Internet services for that domain name will work.

12. Will I still be able to get e-mail if my name is in RGP?

No. Once domain names are suspended, they are placed in RGP and removed from the zone file, and thus no Internet services for that domain name will work.

13. Why is my registrar charging me to redeem my name through RGP?

In line with the "ssNIC registrar accreditation agreement", the registry allows a registrar to put a markup on the standard fee for a domain name. You should contact your registrar to inquire about the fee being charged.

14. If my name is in RHP, why how can I restore it?

Once a domain name passes the 90-day RGP deadline, it can only be restored either after the ninety (90) day RHP or if ANY registrar requests for it and pays the domain names' maintenance (renewal) fee for three (3) years.

15. Will I be charged a renewal fee in addition to the RGP fee itself? Do I lose any time that remained on my registration?

Suspended domain names already have an expired term. Therefore, any domain name restoration request should be preceded by payment of the appropriate domain maintenance fee. If a domain name is already at the RGP, payment of the domain names' three (3) year maintenance (renewal) fee is required BEFORE it can be released for registration.