

## **Domain Name Registration** **Acceptable Use Policy**

Version 1.0

-Effective 28 Jan 2021-

### **Introduction**

1. This Acceptable Use Policy sets out the standards that apply in determining whether a .hk or .香港 country code top level domain name (the “**Domain Name**”) will be accepted for registration.
2. The applicant should satisfy itself that the intended Domain Name meets the requirements for registration. Choosing an unregistrable Domain Name may result in the rejection of the application and a new application would be required.

### **Naming standards**

3. Without prejudice to the requirements under the HKIRC’s Domain Name Registration Policies, Procedures and Guidelines for .hk and .香港 domain names, the Domain Name selected should not:-
  - (a) In any way contravene, or may contravene, any applicable local, national or international law or regulation;
  - (b) Include offensive or inappropriate content;
  - (c) Be likely to deceive any person or organization;
  - (d) Breach any legal duty owed to any other person or organization or the right of a third party; or
  - (e) Be contrary to the public interest (including but not limited to disrupting the operation of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region) or contrary to accepted principles of morality.

### **Breach of this policy**

4. HKIRC shall determine at its sole and absolute discretion whether there is a breach of this Acceptable Use Policy. When we consider that there is a breach of this Acceptable Use Policy, we may take such action as we deem appropriate, including but not limited to:
  - (a) Rejection of the Domain Name registration;

(b) Immediate, temporary or permanent cancellation of the Domain Name (if already registered); or

(c) Disclosure of such information to law enforcement authorities as we reasonably feel is necessary or as required by law.

### **Miscellaneous**

5. For the purpose of this Acceptable Use Policy, “HKIRC”, “we” or “us” shall mean the Hong Kong Internet Registration Corporation Limited.
6. The Schedule to this Policy forms part of this Policy and shall have effect as if set out in the body of this Policy.
7. We exclude any liability for all and any action we may, or may not, take in under this Acceptable Use Policy.
8. This Acceptable Use Policy is governed by the laws of Hong Kong.
9. HKIRC reserves the right to amend this Acceptable Use Policy at any time. We will publish the amended version in advance (where practicable, fourteen (14) calendar days in advance) on our website [www.hkirc.hk](http://www.hkirc.hk)). Each amended version will become binding and effective on the effective date specified at the top of the amended version, and will replace all previous versions of the Acceptable Use Policy. You should review our website regularly in order to be aware of all such amendments.
10. In the event of any inconsistency between the English and Chinese versions of this Acceptable Use Policy, the English version shall prevail.

## **Schedule**

### **Example of Domain Names that may breach the naming standards**

1. This Schedule provides a non-exhaustive list of types of Domain Names that may not comply with the naming standards under Clause 3(a), (b), (c) and (d) of the Acceptable Use Policy.

Clause 3(a): Domain Names that in any way contravene, or may contravene, any applicable local, national or international law or regulation

2. Examples of such Domain Names include (but not limited to) Domain Names that may:-
  - (i) promote any illegal activity;
  - (ii) promote discrimination based on grounds such as race, gender, national origin, disability, or family status;
  - (iii) promote violence; or
  - (iv) advocate, promote or incite any party to commit, or assist any unlawful or criminal act under any applicable local, national or international law or regulation.

Clause 3(b): Domain Names that include any offensive or inappropriate content

3. Examples of such Domain Names include (but not limited to) Domain Names that may:-
  - (i) be obscene, hateful or inflammatory;
  - (ii) bully, insult, intimidate or humiliate any person or organization;
  - (iii) be defamatory of any person or organization;
  - (iv) be in contempt of court;
  - (v) be threatening, abuse or invade another's privacy, or cause needless anxiety; or
  - (vi) be likely to harass any other person or organization.

Clause 3(c): Domain Names that may be likely to deceive any person or organization

4. Examples of such Domain Names include (but not limited to) Domain Names that may:-

(i) provide false or misleading information; or

(ii) impersonate any person or organization, or misrepresent the Domain Name's identity or affiliation with any person or organization;

Clause 3(d): Domain Names that may breach any legal duty owed to any other person or organization or the right of a third party

5. Examples of such rights include (but not limited to) copyright and any contractual duty or duty of confidence.