

Information Note: Amendments to the .pt Registration Rules

.PT is making available for public consultation the proposed revision of the .pt Registration Rules (the “Rules”), inviting all interested parties to submit their comments and suggestions.

The proposed revision arises in a context where Portugal’s top-level domain continues to demonstrate solid and consistent performance: the number of registrations continues to grow positively and steadily, and .pt stands out among the fastest-growing European ccTLDs. At the same time, litigation involving .pt domain names remains low, both in arbitration and in courts, as does the number of complaints submitted through official channels.

The revision of the Rules does not, therefore, result from the need to correct problems, but rather from the need to ensure their natural evolution considering the current digital ecosystem. In particular, the aim is to adapt the Rules to ongoing legislative and regulatory developments that have significantly shaped. PT’s activity, namely the new Geographical Indications Regulations, Decree-Law No. 71/2021, Law No. 78/2021, Law No. 82/2021, the Digital Services Regulation and, notably, the new Cybersecurity Legal Framework. The revision also seeks to address suggestions and requests put forward by registrars and to accommodate new initiatives and internal processes under development.

In this context, the most relevant amendments include:

- introduction of a specific article on data validation (Article 9);
- introduction of data verification as a condition for the registration of .pt domains (Article 2(1)(b)), transfer of ownership (Article 14(3)) and change of email address and phone number (Article 13(3));
- extension of the deadline to 8 days for confirmation, correction or supplementation of the data provided at registration (Article 9(2));
- suspension of the 10-day period for assessing the domain’s compliance (Article 8(1) and Article 33);
- full alignment of the registration conditions applicable to .pt and .com.pt domains (Article 10);
- all registered domains will be charged, even if removed due to non-compliance with the Rules (removal of the current Article 20);

- introduction of the possibility of mediation within alternative dispute resolution (Article 14(5), Article 17(5), Article 20(3) and Article 21(1)(a));
- possibility of blocking or redirecting domain names upon notification by a legally competent authority (Article 22);
- updates to the information published in the WHOIS directory (Article 30): the registration date, expiration date, domain status and technical information will be publicly available. In addition, where the domain name holder is a legal entity, its name and address will also be disclosed. Regarding natural persons, personal data will no longer be published in the WHOIS, and their consent will therefore no longer be required. Contact details such as phone number and email address will not be visible to any party, with only anonymized contact mechanisms being available.

In preparing this proposal, consideration was given to the experience gained from the application of the current Rules, the contributions and suggestions provided by registrars, and the practices followed by leading European ccTLD registries.

The revision also aims to make the Rules a clearer, more understandable and agile instrument, facilitating their application by all stakeholders in the .pt ecosystem, without compromising the security and trust associated with Portugal's top-level domain.