



This article describes the procedures and requirements of .fr domain names.
Click on the subject below to open the dropdown for more information.

Registration

Successful domain registration via [RCP](#) or [XML API](#) or [REST API](#) requires:

- Registrant contact require:
 - Valid full first-name. Abbreviations like "A." are not allowed.
 - Located within the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland or any of the French overseas territories.
- Two or more nameservers or a nameserver group.
- Technical Contact can be a COMPANY or an INDIVIDUAL Person. If the technical contact is an individual person, his/her information will be published on the whois.

The french registry (Afnic) will perform checks on the requirements above and contact the **registrant directly** in case the requirements are not met to ask for proof of identification data. (For example, the registrant seems to have an address outside the EU).

Proof of identification data contains:

- Company
 - business registration certificate
 - the ID of the legal representative of the company
- Private individual
 - copy of the holder's national identity card or passport
 - proof of residence of less than three months (telephone or electricity bill, tax notice, etc.
 - holder's email address and telephone number

In case the registry does not receive any documents in time, they will block the domain until the documents are received. To unblock, the registrant has to reply to the email of the registry with the required documents.

The Registry maintains a list of domain names to the "reserved" status (towns, community names).

If registration fails with a **"2304, Object status prohibits operation"** error (example: Object status prohibits operation: **city name (AFNIC authinfo mandatory)**), the domain can not be registered directly. Only in case the registrant has a legitimate interest (represents city council

of that city or region for example) a request can be submitted to the registry to manually assess the request in order to register the domain.

If the registrant believes he has a legitimate interest / claim, please send us an email and include the handle of the registrant + his connection to the city / region + purpose of the website and we can submit the request.

Domain names under the extensions .com.fr, .asso.fr and .tm.fr are discontinued since 2013. No new domain names can be registered under those extensions. Existing domains under those extensions can be managed like any other domain and can be transferred into Openprovider.

Registrants from the United Kingdom that registered their domain before the 1st of January 2021 are eligible to keep their domain name; they can update, transfer and renew their domain name as any other registrant. However, as the Brexit transition period ended, new registrations for registrants from the United Kingdom are not allowed anymore.

Important: As provided for in the [Naming Charter](#) since 1 January 2023, Afnic will implement on **September 26, 2023** a mechanism that will identify, as soon as a domain name is created and before it is published in the DNS, data of domain name holders that do not meet eligibility criteria of the .fr Naming Charter.

Initially, we will focus on the main criteria of holder eligibility, which is the principal criteria for .fr accessibility, and specifically, the creation of a .fr domain name by a holder who does not reside in the European Union. The mechanism in place checks all .fr domain name creations and in the initial phase of deployment, automatically identifies those for which holders have entered a "country code" corresponding to a country outside the territories of the EU and EFTA member countries.

As soon as we detect a domain name whose registrant data corresponds to this category, it is registered but not published in the DNS for a maximum of 7 calendar days. A SERVER_HOLD status is applied.

This means that the domain name is indeed registered but its publication in the DNS is suspended.

During this non-publication phase, which lasts 7 days, several actions are possible:

- update the holder's details so that they meet the criteria set out in article 5.1 of the [Naming Charter](#);
- change the holder;
- delete the domain name.

IMPORTANT:

Domain Registration Restrictions: Online Gambling and Pharmacy-Related Terms:

In accordance with French law, it is strictly prohibited to offer online casino games or online sports betting on French territory without proper authorization. Additionally, to prevent fraudulent or non-compliant domain registrations, we have enforced a keyword-based restriction within our system across all AFNIC TLDs. This change aims to ensure compliance with French regulations and to protect users from illegal or misleading online activities.

Legal Background

Gambling and Betting Prohibitions

Under Articles L320-1 and L324-1 of the French Internal Security Code and Article 56 of Law No. 2010-476 of May 12, 2010, the following applies:

- Offering online casino games on French territory is strictly prohibited.
- Offering online sports betting without an appropriate license is also strictly prohibited.

The official list of approved and licensed operators can be consulted on [Legifrance](https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/eli/loi/2010/5/12/2010_476).

This restriction will apply to all TLDs (.fr, .re, .pm, .tf, .wf, .yt) under the AFNIC Registry.

Restricted Keywords - If a domain name includes any of the following terms, the registration will be automatically blocked:

Gambling / Betting Keywords

casino, gambling, betting, wager, gamesofchance, gamble, punt, stakes, onlinecasino, virtualcasino, casinowebsite, casinoplatform, livecasino, blackjack, poker, roulette, baccarat, craps, keno, slot, slots, videopoker, lottery, lotto, sweepstake, scratchcard, jackpot, raffle, sportsbook, bet365, parimutuel, bettingodds, livebetting, footballbet, casinobonus, welcomebonus, freespins, nodeposit, 100free, winbig, jeuxdargent, jeuxdecasino, parisportif, cotes, tirage, gagnerdelargent, bonuscasino, machinesasous, blackjackenligne, roulettenligne, pokeraargent, bet, bets, betonline, livebet, livebetting, footballbet, sportsbet, sportsbetting, bettingodds, bet365, bettips, bestbet, freebet, matchbet, placedbet, placingbet, parlay, stake, stakes, wager, wagers, wagering, odds, bookmaker, bookie, sportsbook, spreadbet, handicapbet, matchodds, betnow, winbet

Pharmacy / Pharmaceutical Keywords

pharmacie, pharmacien, pharmacienne, pharma, parapharmacie, pharmaciedegarde, pharmaciedurgence, pharmacieenligne, pharmacienconseil, pharmamed, pharmashop, pharmaciefrancaise, pharmacielyon, pharmaciemarseille, pharmacieparis, pharmaciedigitale

In France, the medicine distribution chain is secure and under pharmaceutical supervision. Only an individual who holds a State Doctor of Pharmacy degree is authorized to open or acquire a pharmacy and to sell medicines, whether through a physical pharmacy or online.

(<https://www.ordre.pharmacien.fr/je-suis/patient-grand-public/les-sites-autorises-de-vente-en-ligne-de-medicaments>)

You can find on the following page the list of authorized websites permitted to sell medicines online:

<https://www.ordre.pharmacien.fr/je-suis/patient-grand-public/rechercher-un-site-de-vente-en-ligne-autorise-a-vendre-des-medicaments>

Implementation Details

- The restriction is enforced at the time of domain registration.
- Domains containing any restricted keyword will be rejected automatically.
- Registrants wishing to use a blocked term for legitimate reasons must contact support for manual review and provide appropriate company documentation and license proof.

Transfer

Successful domain transfer via [RCP](#) or [XML API](#) or [REST API](#) requires:

- Registrant contact require:
 - Valid full first-name. Abbreviations like "A." are not allowed.
 - Located within the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland or any of the French overseas territories.
- Two or more nameservers or a nameserver group.
- Technical Contact can be a COMPANY or an INDIVIDUAL Person. If the technical contact is an individual person, his/her information will be published on the whois.

The transfer period is subject to cooperation of the current registrar:

- if the current registrar approves the transfer, it completes immediately
- if the current registrar does not approve/reject the transfer, it completes after 8 days
- if the current registrar rejects the transfer within the first 8 days, it completes after 22 days

If the holder wants to cancel an initiated transfer, only the gaining registrar (Openprovider) can do so; you can cancel the transfer from the [transfer queue](#) in RCP.

The registry will not send an e-mail to the domain contacts after the transfer finishes.

Authorization code required	yes
Method of confirmation	authcode
Registration period after transfer	extends
Average transfer time	8-22 days
Advanced and simple transfers available	Contact our Sales department to check if easy transfer of 100 or more .fr domains is available.

Outgoing transfer

- **External authorization code request** - via [RCP \(Reseller Control Panel\)](#) or [XML API](#) or [REST API](#)

Update

Owner change (trade)

- requested as a normal domain update via RCP or [XML API](#) or [REST API](#)
- processed realtime

If your domain is premium/reserved - [contact us](#) to validate this change.

Other update

- requested via RCP or [XML API](#) or [REST API](#)
- processed realtime

Deletion / Restore

Delete

- requested via RCP or [XML API](#) or [REST API](#)
- processed realtime
- will result in a quarantine period

Restore / reactivate

- restore / reactivation supported via [RCP](#) or [XML API](#) or [REST API](#)
- quarantine period can be found under
Detailed extension information > Technical information > Quarantine period

Detailed extension information

Registry

- Registry: [AFNIC](#)
- Registry whois: [whois.nic.fr](https://www.afnic.fr/en/domain-names-and-support/everything-there-is-to-know-about-domain-names/find-a-domain-name-or-a-holder-using-whois/)
- Registry web based whois:
<https://www.afnic.fr/en/domain-names-and-support/everything-there-is-to-know-about-domain-names/find-a-domain-name-or-a-holder-using-whois/>
- Registry zonefile updates: Every 10 minutes

Technical information	• Available second level domains: .nom.fr, .prd.fr, .presse.fr • DNSSEC support: yes • Minimum length: 1 characters • Maximum length: 63 characters • Allowed characters: a-z 0-9 - (hyphen) • IDN characters: supported • Registration period: 1-10 years • Renewal date offset: 2 days <i>The number of days before the registry's expiration date, that Openprovider requires the domain to be renewed or expired. More info.</i> • <i>Note that the dates as shown in your Openprovider account are always leading, even if they do not match the renewal date offset mentioned here.</i> • Soft quarantine period: n/a days <i>During this period, following after an expiration, the domain can be restored for free. This period does not apply if the domain is deleted explicitly. More info.</i> • Quarantine period: 29 days <i>During this period, an expired or deleted domain name can be reactivated at an additional fee.</i>
Restrictions	• Local presence required? yes • Does Openprovider provide local presence services? yes • Local activity required? no • Correct nameserver configuration required? no • It is required that the office/residence of the registrant is within the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland or any of the French overseas territories. • A .fr domain name may not end in "-gouv.fr" • Additional information about date, place and country of birth (private individuals) is required. • The tech handle can not be a person, but needs to be a company handle
Policies	• All policies on the registry's website • Premium policy: no premiums supported • Naming Policies

Registration agreement

The registry requires that a registration agreement is in place between the provider and the domain holder. The text of this registration agreement and any required supplements is the following:

- [General registration agreement](#)

Due to the regular changes in registry rules and configuration or missing information from registry side, and despite our effort to keep our knowledge base up-to-date, information in the knowledge base may be outdated or incorrect. If you encounter some issue, please report it through the "HotJar" feedback collector on the bottom right, or (if it is blocked by your browser) by clicking the "Submit a request" link below. No rights can be derived from the information in this knowledge base. If there is discrepancy between the knowledge base and the process in Openprovider, the process in Openprovider is leading.

Revision #2

Created 2026-08-07 14:08:17 UTC by Sarath

Updated 2026-08-07 15:16:30 UTC by Sarath