**Preliminary Recommendation 16**: The Registrar MUST restrict the RNH from transferring a domain name to a new Registrar within 30 days of the initial registration date.[[1]](#footnote-1)[1]

**Rationale**: The working group believes that a single requirement across the industry will result in a better experience for registrants. The working group recommends that 30 days is the appropriate period for this requirement because:

* It provides a window of opportunity to identify issues associated with credit card payments, including unauthorized use of a credit card. This may assist with addressing criminal activity and deterring fraud.
* It provides a window of opportunity for a complainant to file a Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP) proceeding without the domain being transferred to a new registrar. Once the proceeding is underway, the domain will be locked in relation to the dispute.
* For registrants who legitimately want to transfer a domain shortly after registration, the working group believes that 30 days is a reasonable period of time to wait.

**Preliminary Recommendation 17**: Registrars MUST apply a 30-day post-change of registrar lock by default for all domain names transferred into a Registrar, however on a case-by-case basis and where an Established Relationship exists, the Registrar may unlock the domain name in less than thirty (30) days for the purpose of an inter-registrar transfer, on a case-by-case basis. . An Established Relationship means a RNH who has; a) received registrar services for a period of at least thirty (30) days; and b) a history of regular interactions with the Registrar and who has demonstrated a willingness to continue receiving registrar services from the Registrar in the future.

**Rationale**: The working group believes that a single requirement across the industry will result in a better experience for registrants and will also consistently prevent the transfer of a domain multiple times in rapid succession, a practice associated with domain theft. The working group recommends that 30 days is the appropriate period for this requirement because:

* It provides a window of opportunity to identify issues associated with credit card payments, including unauthorized use of a credit card. This may assist with addressing criminal activity and deterring fraud.
* For registrants who legitimately want to transfer a domain again shortly after an inter-registrar transfer has taken place and do not have an Established Relationship, 30 days is a reasonable period of time to wait.
* However, in the case of a Registrar customer who has an Established Relationship with the Registrar, an exception is appropriate to enable a Registrar to override the general prohibition on transfers within 30 days of the initial registration date, where the Registrar has no concerns with permitting the transfer.
* Currently, i.e. prior to this Proposal, there is no absolute prohibition on transfers following a change of registrar. A RNH can opt-out of a Registrar-imposed 60-day inter-registrar transfer lock following a Change of Registrant. This Proposal creates a general prohibition against such transfers within 30 days of the previous transfer, but does permit Registrars to permit transfers only on a case-by-case basis where an Established Relationship Exists. As such, this Proposal generally increases restrictions on inter-registrar transfers and thereby provides greater security by prohibiting such transfers except where a Registrar exercises its discretion as a result of the existence of an Established Relationship. We consider this an appropriate balance between portability and security. While we recognize that a bad actor may attempt to transfer a domain name to another registrar to avoid impending enforcement or recovery actions on the basis of having an Established Relationship with a Registrar, we believe that potential existence of such relatively rare circumstances are outweighed by the clear benefit of enabling RNH to choose their desired registrar at any time, provided that the Registrar is comfortable doing so and an Established Relationship exists with the RNH. We also believe that despite the possible exception available for RNHs with an Established Relationship, the general security situation is improved in comparison to the current status quo under the Transfer Policy.
1. [1] The initial registration date referenced in this recommendation corresponds to the Creation Date in the RDDS. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)