

REQUIRE REGISTRIES/REGISTRARS TO LOCK & SUSPEND DOMAIN NAMES THAT FACILITATE ILLEGAL ONLINE DRUG SALE

Today, online criminals peddling poison for profit are winning. Domain name registries and registrars must reduce online availability of illicit opioids and other counterfeit, falsified, substandard, or unapproved prescription drugs. This includes:



Domain name registries and registrars should immediately, on notice from a credible party, lock and suspend any domain name that is used to facilitate the illegal online sales of medicines and illicit drugs from use or resolution in the domain name system.



Detect and remove social media posts, individual and group pages, advertisements, and other listings offering or facilitating illicit drug sales via the Internet.

WHAT ARE DOMAIN NAME REGISTRIES & REGISTRARS?

A domain name registry company creates, operates and enforce requirements for domain extensions such as .com, .edu, .org, and tech.

- Examples of registries include Verisign, Radix, Neustar, etc.

A domain name registrar is an accredited company that sells domain names to the public.

- Examples of registrars include GoDaddy, Epic, Domain, Hover, etc.

ALLOWING AN ATMOSPHERE OF LAWLESSNESS

According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration¹ (FDA) registries and registrars often will not act against these illegal and dangerous online drug sellers without court orders even when:

- 1 The domain names themselves explicitly imply illegal activity
- 2 The sites violate terms of use agreements
- 3 They are repeat offenders and/or are resistant to correcting violations cited in abuse complaints

These criminal actors refuse to abide by the rules that are designed to foster legitimate activity on the internet, and instead help to create an atmosphere of lawlessness that adversely puts the health of millions of Americans in danger.

HOW DOES THIS BILL HELP?

In response to notification by a Trusted Notifier, domain name registry operators and registrars are required to lock and suspend from use any domain name in its control that is being used to facilitate the illegal online sales of prescription drugs within 15 days of receipt of the notification.

WHO DOES THIS APPLY TO?

Domain name registries and registrars that:



Are operated or involved in commerce in U.S., any territory of the U.S.; or



Offer to register or assign domain names for any legal or natural person in the U.S.; or



Registers or assigns, or offers to register or assign, domain names that are used to market or sell goods or services to, residents of the United States.

WHO ARE TRUSTED NOTIFIERS?

- Food and Drug Administration
- Department of Justice
- Department of Homeland Security
- State Attorneys General
- State Boards of Pharmacy
- National Association of Boards of Pharmacy
- Federation of State Medical Boards
- Intellectual property rightsholders of one or more products being offered, or advertised via a reported domain name
- Any organization or entity currently under contract or in a public-private partnership with FDA and/or DEA to share information related to online drug sale

¹ <https://asopfoundation.pharmacy/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/DAshley-ASOP-Global-Foundation-Research-Symposium-Presentation-11.14.2018.pdf>