

An overview of country code top-level domains registration in Thailand

Country code top-level domain (ccTLD) names are used to identify the country where a domain name was created. Generally, each country is attributed a 2-letter country code, which is “.th” for Thailand.

Types of third-level country code top-level domain names in Thailand

The registration of ccTLD names in Thailand is the responsibility of the Thai Network Information Center Foundation (THNIC).[1]

There are seven categories of third-level ccTLD names that can be registered in Thailand:

- (1) ac.th: for academic institutions;
- (2) .go.th: for government entities;
- (3) .mi.th: for the Royal Thai Armed Force agencies;
- (4) .net.th: for telecommunication business license licensees;
- (5) .or.th: for non-government organizations and nonprofit organizations;
- (6) co.th: for (a) juristic entities registered in Thailand or abroad; or (b) owners of trademark registered in Thailand or abroad; or (c) persons or entities registered for VAT in Thailand; or (d) State Enterprises;
- (7) .in.th: for all types of entities with an official location in Thailand, Thai individuals or foreigners with a Thai work permit.

Each of these seven types of domains follows its own registration rules, prescribed by the 2020 Domain Name Registration Policy[2] and the Third-Level Domain Name Registration Guidelines.[3] While the 4 first categories are the most restricted, the last 3 are of more interest for foreign companies and individuals.

Rules for “.co.th” domain naming in Thailand

Generic rules to follow for domain naming are the ones that apply most commonly. The name must be made of roman letters or numerals, have between 1 and 63 characters and can use an hyphen (-).

In addition, “.co.th” can only be granted for:

- The full name of a company (registered in Thailand or overseas), a portion of the company name or an abbreviation of the company name – the normal order of the words should be followed if the company name is made of more than one word.
- The name of a Thai registered trademark. In this case, the domain name will be registered in the name of the owner of the trademark.

- The name of a foreign registered trademark.

If the domain name is based on a foreign registered trademark or a foreign company name, an agent with a registered address in Thailand will be designated as “agent on record” for the owner of the domain name.

Procedure for obtaining a “.co.th” domain name in Thailand

All applicants must have a verified account with the THNIC to receive approval and have a contact person with a registered address in Thailand.

In addition, if the application is filed by an agent based in Thailand, the following documents are required:

If the name used is the company name:	If the name used is a Thai registered trademark:	If the name used is a foreign registered trademark:
1. The company certificate of the applicant (with an English translation if issued overseas), 2. A Power of Attorney (simply signed), and 3. An authorization letter from the applicant to use the company name as the domain name in Thailand.	1. The trademark registration certificate, 2. A Power of Attorney (simply signed), and 3. An authorization letter from the applicant to use the Thai trademark as the domain name.	1. The trademark registration certificate with an English translation; 2. A Power of Attorney (simply signed); 3. An authorization letter from the applicant to use the foreign trademark as the domain name.

The request should be considered by the registrar within one day. If approved, the applicant will have to pay the registration fee.

Transfer of a “.co.th” domain name to a new holder in Thailand

Transfers of these domain names to a new holder can be granted in particular in the following cases:

- When the trademark used for the domain name has been assigned to another entity/person;
- Following a change of legal entity (e.g. M&A);
- When the foreign owner of the domain name who appointed a Thai agent to hold the domain name on their behalf registered a Thai trademark or registered a company in Thailand; in this case, the Thai agent can but is no longer required to hold the domain name.

In this last scenario, the documents required for the transfer of domain name from the agent to the actual owner would be as follows:

- If the foreign owner registered a trademark in Thailand:
 - (1) A copy of the Thai trademark registration certificate, and
 - (2) A copy of the foreign company registration certificate.
- If the foreign owner registered a company in Thailand:
 - (1) A signed copy of the Thai company registration certificate issued within the past 6 months, and
 - (2) A signed copy of the Thai tax registration certificate.

Renewal of a “.co.th” domain name in Thailand

A third-level domain name can be registered and renewed for a minimum of one year and a maximum of ten years. If it is not renewed before the expiry date, three successive grace periods of a total of 60 days will apply:

- A 5-day grace period during which the domain name is auto-renewed.
- A 24-day hold period during which the domain name is unavailable.
- A 30-day redemption grace period after the command to delete the domain name has been sent to the operator; the renewal of the domain name during this period will require the payment of an additional redemption fee of 1,600 Thai Baht.

SLD.th available since 2021

“.th” is available as a secondary level ccTLD since 2021.[4] Three rounds of applications are open per year.[5] Owners of SLD.th domain names can be Thai citizens, companies incorporated in Thailand or owners of a Thai registered trademark.

However, it is at significantly higher cost than third-level domain names as the official fee is of THB110,000 (around USD3,300).

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References:

- [1] <https://www.thnic.or.th/en/aboutus-en/> (last accessed 02/11/2022).
- [2] <https://www.thnic.or.th/doc/thPolicy-Final-May2563-EN.pdf> (last accessed 02/11/2022).
- [3] <https://www.thnic.or.th/doc/3LD-RegisGuides-Final-May2563-EN.pdf> (last accessed 02/11/2022).
- [4] https://www.thnic.or.th/whatis_sld/ (last accessed 24/01/2023).
- [5] <https://www.thnic.co.th/th/sld/#sld3> (last accessed 24/01/2023).