

Note on this draft document from the RIPE NCC

The RIPE NCC, in consultation with external legal experts, created this draft procedural document, "Closure of LIR and Deregistration of Internet Number Resources". The text of this document is intended to replace sections in two RIPE Documents that deal with the closure of LIRs and the deregistration of resources:

- Sections 3.0 and 4.0 of ripe-301, "Mergers, Acquisitions, Takeovers and Closures of Organisations Operating an LIR". These sections are entitled "Closing an LIR" and "When an LIR is Closed by the RIPE NCC", respectively.

The original RIPE Document is available at:

<http://www.ripe.net/ripe/docs/mergers.html>

- Section 4.2 of ripe-475, "Independent Internet Number Resources - Contractual Relationship Changes between sponsoring LIR and End User". This section is entitled "Violation of RIPE Policy, Law or Contract".

The original RIPE Document is available at:

<http://www.ripe.net/ripe/docs/ripe-475.html>

The RIPE NCC would like to receive feedback on this draft document from its members and the RIPE community. The RIPE NCC members and the RIPE community will have the opportunity to discuss the document on the mailing lists and at the RIPE NCC Services Working Group to be held on 17 November at the RIPE 61 Meeting in Rome.

Closure of LIR and deregistration of Internet number resources

Please note that, for the purposes of this document, LIRs are referred to as “Contributors”.

Section A of this document describes the valid reasons for terminating the RIPE NCC Standard Service Agreement that can lead to the closure of a Contributor, the procedure that applies in each circumstance and the consequences.

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A. Closure of LIR - Termination of the RIPE NCC Standard Service Agreement

An organisation or an individual person can receive services from the RIPE NCC if they:

- Agree and sign the RIPE NCC Standard Service Agreement (SSA); and
- Conform to the RIPE NCC Standard Terms and Conditions (STCs); and
- Conform to RIPE Policies.

An organisation or an individual person signing the SSA is called a “Contributor”. The RIPE NCC SSA is entered into for an indefinite period of time, unless terminated by either party.

1. Grounds for termination and procedure in each case

The SSA can be terminated by the Contributor (see section 1.1) or by the RIPE NCC. The termination by the RIPE NCC can either be with a notice period of three months (see section 1.2.1.) or for specific reasons with a shorter notice period and immediate effect (see section 1.2.2.).

1.1. Termination by the Contributor

According to Article 8.1 of the STCs, the Contributor can terminate the SSA with a notice period of three months. Possible reasons why Contributors might want to terminate their SSA include:

- The Contributor decides to close or to change their business
- The Contributor decides to merge with another Contributor and therefore they do not need to be Contributors themselves
- The Contributor decides to assign Internet number resources from another Contributor

Procedure

The notice will formally request the termination of the SSA.

It must be:

- Dated and signed by an authorised representative of the Contributor. A registered contact cannot give notice unless the registered contact is an authorised representative.
- Sent to the RIPE NCC by email to <ncc@ripe.net> or by postal mail to: RIPE NCC, Singel 258, 1016 AB Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

The RIPE NCC will send an acknowledgement of the receipt of the notice. Upon receipt of such notice, the progress of any open requests for RIPE NCC services is terminated.

The termination of the SSA will take place three months after the receipt of the notice by the RIPE NCC.

Billing issues

If the termination takes place in the course of a financial year, the annual contribution shall nevertheless remain due in full by the Contributor (see also paragraph 6.6 of the RIPE NCC Articles of Association (AoA) and the billing procedure [link]).

1.2. Termination by the RIPE NCC

1.2.1. Termination with a three-month notice period

According to Article 8.1 of the STCs, the RIPE NCC can terminate the SSA with a notice period of three months. Grounds for such termination may be the following:

1.2.1.1. Violation of RIPE Policies and RIPE NCC procedures

The Contributor must comply with RIPE Policies and RIPE NCC procedures (see Articles 3.4 and 9 of the STCs). The RIPE NCC will terminate the SSA if the Contributor commits any of the following violations of RIPE Policies or RIPE NCC procedures:

a. Unresponsiveness

The Contributor is unresponsive for a significant period of time (IPv4 Address Allocation and Assignment Policies in the RIPE NCC Service Region)

Contributors are considered to be unresponsive if they do not react to a specific email/request made by the RIPE NCC relating to an incorrect/ambiguous registration of Internet number resources, regardless of whether they are at the same time responsive to a different email/request from the RIPE NCC or they continue paying the RIPE NCC fees.

b. Allocations/assignments contravening RIPE policies

Allocations or transfer of allocations and assignments are not made and used in accordance with the RIPE community's policies (IPv4 Address Allocation and Assignment Policies in the RIPE NCC Service Region)

c. Incorrect registration

Registration data is repeatedly not correctly maintained (allocations and assignments must be properly registered in the RIPE Database according to IPv4 Address Allocation and Assignment Policies in the RIPE NCC Service Region)

Proper registration must be as follows:

- The **inetnum** object or objects for approved assignments must use the netname(s) approved by the RIPE NCC and not be larger than the size approved by the RIPE NCC
- The date in the first "changed:" attribute must not be earlier than the date of approval from the RIPE NCC

- The data must be valid and must allow the RIPE NCC to contact the natural person mentioned in the **mnt-by** object within a reasonable time without having to get information from another source

d. Non-compliance with a RIPE NCC audit

Non-compliance with a RIPE NCC audit includes unresponsiveness to or uncooperativeness with the RIPE NCC auditors' requests regarding Internet number resources for the Contributor's own network. For more information about the audit procedure, please see [RIPE NCC audit activity].

e. Non-compliance with an arbiter ruling

For more information about the RIPE NCC Arbitration Procedure, please see [RIPE NCC Arbitration Procedure]).

Procedure

If the RIPE NCC becomes aware of any of the aforementioned reasons for terminating the SSA, the RIPE NCC will:

- Send an email to the registered contact(s) indicating:
 - o the violation
 - o the Contributor's obligation to stop/repair the violation
 - o the termination of the SSA in three (3) months if the violation continues
- Terminate the progress of any open requests for RIPE NCC services

If the Contributor does not comply within 30 days of the date of the email, the RIPE NCC will send a reminder email and a notification by postal mail to the registered contact(s) indicating:

- The violation
- The Contributor's obligation to stop/repair the violation
- The termination of the SSA in two (2) months if the violation continues

After 60 days from the date of the first email, if the Contributor still does not comply, the RIPE NCC will send a second reminder email and a reminder by postal mail to the registered contact(s) indicating

- The violation
- The Contributor's obligation to stop/repair the violation
- The termination of the SSA in one (1) month if the violation continues

After 90 days from the date of the first email, if the Contributor continues not to comply, the RIPE NCC Managing Director will send an official notification of termination of the SSA (i.e., closure of the member) to all registered contacts of the Contributor, both by electronic and registered postal mail.

1.2.1.2. Provision of untruthful information

The RIPE NCC concludes the SSA and provides services to Contributors in good faith. The Contributor is in breach of good faith in the following cases:

a. Falsified/incorrect information

If the Contributor repeatedly provides falsified or purposefully and/or repeatedly provides incorrect data or information (for example, falsified registration documents, IDs, incorrect/inaccurate contact details, etc.)

b. Fraudulent requests

If the Contributor submits repeatedly fraudulent requests for Internet number resources (for example, providing incorrect purpose/need or falsified information about the network, etc.)

Procedure

If the RIPE NCC becomes aware of any of the aforementioned reasons for terminating the SSA, the RIPE NCC will:

- Send an email to the registered contact(s) indicating:
 - o the reason for termination
 - o the Contributor's obligation to stop/repair the breach by providing correct and true information
 - o the termination of the SSA in three (3) months if the Contributor does not comply
- Terminate the progress of any open requests for RIPE NCC services

If the Contributor does not comply within 30 days of the date of the email, the RIPE NCC will send a reminder email and a notification by postal mail to the registered contact(s) indicating:

- The reason for termination
- The Contributor's obligation to stop/repair the breach by providing correct and true information
- The termination of the SSA in two (2) months if the Contributor does not comply

After 60 days from the date of the first email, if the Contributor still does not comply, the RIPE NCC will send a second reminder email and a reminder by postal mail to the registered contact(s) indicating:

- The reason for termination
- The Contributor's obligation to stop/repair the breach by providing correct and true information
- The termination of the SSA in one (1) month if the Contributor does not comply.

After 90 days from the date of the first email, if the Contributor continues not to comply, the RIPE NCC Managing Director will send an official notification of termination of the SSA (i.e., closure of the member) to all

registered contacts of the Contributor, both by electronic and registered postal mail.

1.2.1.3. Other reasons

Termination for any other reason by the RIPE NCC is only executed when the Contributor consents to the termination, unless the termination is for reasons above and beyond control of the RIPE NCC.

For example, such termination has taken place in the past in the case of the emergence of AfriNIC, the RIR for the African region, when, with the consent of the African Contributors, the SSAs with the RIPE NCC were terminated and new contracts with AfriNIC were concluded.

Procedure

The notice will officially inform about the termination of the SSA, state the reasons for the termination and detail the planned arrangements regarding the Internet number resources that were distributed to the Contributor.

Unless otherwise required by the circumstances:

- The RIPE NCC will terminate the progress of any open requests for RIPE NCC services
- Section A.2. (Consequences of termination of the SSA) and section B (Deregistration of Internet number resources) of this document are applicable

The notice will be dated and signed by an authorised representative of the RIPE NCC.

Notice will be sent to the registered contact(s) of the Contributor by electronic and postal mail.

Upon receipt of such notice, the progress of any open requests for RIPE NCC services is terminated. The termination of the SSA will take place after three months from the date the RIPE NCC sends the notice, unless the Contributor requests a longer period and this is agreed upon.

Billing issues

All outstanding amounts for the full year must be settled unless otherwise agreed.

1.2.2. Termination with immediate effect

According to Article 8.2 of the STCs, the RIPE NCC is entitled to terminate the SSA with immediate effect in the following cases:

a. Contributor files for bankruptcy, is liquidated, suspends its payments or becomes insolvent

Upon receipt of the documents stating the bankruptcy, liquidation, suspension of payments or insolvency of the Contributor by the relevant authority or by public announcement of the fact, the RIPE NCC will terminate the SSA.

Procedure

The RIPE NCC will send an email to the registered contact(s) and/or to the legal successor indicating:

- The reason for termination of the SSA
- The immediate termination of the SSA

The RIPE NCC will also terminate the progress of any open requests for RIPE NCC services.

The RIPE NCC Managing Director will send an official notification of termination of the SSA (i.e., closure of the member) to all registered contacts of the Contributor or to the legal successor, both by electronic and registered postal mail.

b. Contributor damages the name, trademarks or intellectual property rights of the RIPE NCC

Examples:

- The Contributor pretends to be, or to act on behalf of, the RIPE NCC through misuse of the RIPE NCC name or logo
- The Contributor unreasonably makes allegations against the RIPE NCC in order to damage the RIPE NCC's reputation and operations, resulting in irreversible damage to the RIPE NCC

Procedure:

The RIPE NCC will

- Send an email to the registered contact(s) indicating:
 - o the violation
 - o the Contributor's obligation to stop/repair the violation
 - o the termination of the SSA if the violation continues
- Terminate the progress of any open requests for RIPE NCC services

If the Contributor does not comply within 30 days of the date of the email, the RIPE NCC will send a reminder email and a notification by postal mail to the registered contact(s) indicating the same as above.

After 60 days from the date of the first email, if the Contributor still does not comply, the RIPE NCC will:

- Send a second reminder email and a reminder by postal mail to the registered contact(s) indicating the same as above
- Not approve any Internet number resource requests

After 90 days from the date of the first email, if the Contributor continues not to comply, the RIPE NCC will:

- Send a third reminder email and a reminder by postal mail to the registered contact(s) indicating the same as above
- Stop providing any services to the Contributor

After 120 days from the date of the first email, if the Contributor still does not comply, the RIPE NCC Managing Director will send an official notification of termination of the SSA (i.e., closure of the member) to all registered contacts of the Contributor, both by electronic and registered postal mail.

c. Contributor fails to submit to the RIPE NCC a valid extract from the Commercial Trade Register or equivalent register

When initially signing the SSA, the Contributor must submit to the RIPE NCC an extract from the Commercial Trade Register or equivalent document providing the registration of the Contributor's business with the national authorities (see Article 2.2 of the STCs).

If the Contributor is a natural person, the RIPE NCC requires submission of any identification papers (passport, driving license or other official document proving the identity of the individual).

If the Contributor is a legal person, identification papers are also required for the authorised person signing the SSA on behalf of the legal person.

If there is any change in the Contributor's business after signing the SSA (for example, the Contributor has merged with another company, has changed name, etc.) and, because of this change, the Contributor's registration with the relevant register has been changed, then the Contributor is obliged to submit the updated registration papers to the RIPE NCC.

If the Contributor does not submit the aforementioned documents within one month of them being requested by the RIPE NCC, the RIPE NCC will terminate the SSA.

Procedure

The RIPE NCC will:

- Send an email to the registered contact(s) indicating:
 - o the Contributor's obligation to submit the relevant documents
 - o the termination of the SSA if the documents are not submitted
- Terminate the progress of any open requests for RIPE NCC services

If the Contributor does not comply within 15 days of the date of the email, the RIPE NCC will send a reminder email and a notification by postal mail to the registered contact(s) indicating the same as above.

After 30 days from the date of the first email, if the Contributor continues not to comply, then the RIPE NCC Managing Director will send an official notification of termination of the SSA (i.e., closure of the member) to all

registered contacts of the Contributor, both by electronic and registered postal mail.

d. The Contributor fails to observe any rule of applicable law

The SSA is exclusively governed by the laws of the Netherlands because the RIPE NCC is an association under Dutch law. The RIPE NCC is allowed to terminate the SSA of a Contributor with immediate effect, provided it receives a Dutch court order to do so.

Procedure

The RIPE NCC will send an email to the registered contact(s) indicating:

- The reason for termination of the SSA
- The immediate termination of the SSA

The RIPE NCC will also terminate the progress of any open requests for RIPE NCC services.

The RIPE NCC Managing Director will send an official notification of termination of the SSA (i.e., closure of the member) to all registered contacts of the Contributor, both by electronic and registered postal mail.

e. Non payment.

In case of non-payment, in accordance with the RIPE NCC Billing Procedure, the SSA is terminated after 120 days. For more information, please see [billing procedure].

f. Termination of the membership

By signing the SSA, Contributors become members of the RIPE NCC association. If Contributors cancel their RIPE NCC membership with the RIPE NCC association, the SSA is automatically terminated.

Please note that if this cancellation takes place due to restrictions in the local law or due to specific restrictions in the structure of the organisation that prevent the Contributor from being a member, the SSA is not terminated (see also Article 6 of the AoA).

Procedure

The RIPE NCC will send an email to the registered contact(s) indicating:

- The reason for termination of the SSA
- The immediate termination of the SSA.

The RIPE NCC will also terminate the progress of any open requests for RIPE NCC services.

The RIPE NCC Managing Director will send an official notification of termination of the SSA (i.e., closure of the member) to all registered contacts of the Contributor, both by electronic and registered postal mail.

2. Consequences

Upon termination of the SSA, Contributors lose all rights to RIPE NCC services and their RIPE NCC member status.

2.1. End of RIPE NCC services

2.1.1. General services

The RIPE NCC will stop providing RIPE NCC services, including:

- Distribution of Internet number resources
- Authorisation to update/modify Internet number resource records in the RIPE Database
- Access to the LIR Portal account
- Participation in RIPE NCC Training Courses

2.1.2. Deregistration of distributed Internet number resources

The procedure for deregistration is described in section B.2.

2.1.3. Request for independent resources as a “sponsoring LIR”

Contributors lose their right to request independent resources as a “sponsoring LIR”. For independent resources already assigned by them, see below at section B.2.2.

2.2. End of Contributor’s RIPE NCC member status

Contributors will also lose their RIPE NCC member status and all relevant rights, such as the right to attend and vote at RIPE NCC General Meetings.

B. Deregistration of Internet number resources

1. Reasons for deregistration of Internet number resources

1.1 Allocations and Independent resources assigned for the Contributor’s own network or assigned through a “sponsoring LIR”

a. Termination of the SSA

For more information, see section A.

b. Invalidity of original allocation/assignment criteria

Internet number resources are allocated/assigned based on a specific need. When the original technical requirements or the business purpose for the use of the Internet number resources change, the allocation/assignment becomes invalid. If the RIPE NCC notices any change in the original technical criteria or the original business purposes

for using the Internet number resources, the RIPE NCC is authorised to deregister the relevant Internet number resources.

c. Incorrect registration of the allocation/assignment in the RIPE Database

If the allocation/assignment approved by the RIPE NCC is not properly registered in the RIPE Database, the RIPE NCC is authorised to deregister the relevant Internet number resources.

Proper registration must be as follows:

- The **inetnum** object or objects for approved assignments must use the netname(s) approved by the RIPE NCC and not be larger than the size approved by the RIPE NCC
- The date in the first “changed:” attribute must not be earlier than the date of approval from the RIPE NCC
- The data must be valid and must allow the RIPE NCC to contact the natural person mentioned in the **mnt-by** object within a reasonable time without having to get information from another source

d. Falsified/incorrect information

If a Contributor has provided falsified or purposefully provided incorrect data or information (for example, falsified registration documents, IDs, incorrect/inaccurate contact details, etc.) regarding an allocation or an Independent resource, the RIPE NCC will deregister the relevant records.

e. Fraudulent request

If a Contributor has submitted a fraudulent request for an allocation or an Independent resource (for example, by providing incorrect purpose/need or falsified information about the network, etc.), the RIPE NCC will deregister the relevant records.

f. Refusal to comply with a RIPE NCC audit

If a Contributor does not comply with a RIPE NCC audit regarding an Independent resource that the Contributor is responsible for as “sponsoring LIR”, the RIPE NCC will deregister the relevant records. No compliance includes, but is not limited to, unresponsiveness to or uncooperativeness with the RIPE NCC auditors’ requests. For more information about the audit procedure, please see [RIPE NCC audit activity]

g. Court order

The RIPE NCC is an association under Dutch law. In the event a Dutch court orders deregistration of specific Internet number resources, the RIPE NCC must and will comply.

1.2 Independent resources directly by the RIPE NCC for Direct Assignment Users

a. Termination of the RIPE NCC End User Assignment Agreement

The RIPE NCC End User Assignment Agreement can terminate according to Article 7 of that agreement. Sections A.1 and A.2.2 above, referring to the SSA and the Contributors, can apply accordingly for the RIPE NCC End User Assignment Agreement and the Direct Assignment Users.

b. Unresponsive Direct Assignment User

Direct Assignment Users are considered to be unresponsive if they do not react to a RIPE NCC specific email/request made by the RIPE NCC relating to an incorrect/ambiguous registration of Internet number resources, regardless of whether they are at the same time responsive to a different email/request from the RIPE NCC or they continue paying the RIPE NCC fees (see also the RIPE Policy “Contractual Requirements for Provider Independent Resource Holders in the RIPE NCC Service Region”).

c. Invalidity of original criteria

If the Direct Assignment User does not inform the RIPE NCC or the sponsoring LIR of any change in the original technical criteria or the original business purposes for using the resources when the change takes place, the RIPE NCC is authorised to deregister the relevant Internet number resources.

d. Incorrect registration of the assignment in the RIPE Database

If the Direct Assignment User does not properly register in the RIPE Database the assignment approved by the RIPE NCC, the RIPE NCC is authorised to deregister the relevant Internet number resources.

Proper registration must be as follows:

- The **inetnum** object or objects for approved assignments must use the netname(s) approved by the RIPE NCC and not be larger than the size approved by the RIPE NCC
- The date in the first “changed:” attribute must not be earlier than the date of approval from the RIPE NCC
- The data must be valid and must allow the RIPE NCC to contact the natural person mentioned in the **mnt-by** object within a reasonable time without having to get information from another source

e. Falsified/ incorrect information

If a Direct Assignment User has provided falsified or purposefully and/or repeatedly provided incorrect data or information (for example, falsified registration documents, IDs, incorrect/inaccurate contact details, etc.) regarding an allocation or an Independent resource, the RIPE NCC will deregister the relevant records.

f. Fraudulent request

If a Direct Assignment User has submitted a fraudulent request for assignment of an Independent resource (for example, providing incorrect purpose/ need or falsified information about the network etc), the RIPE NCC will deregister the relevant records.

g. Refusal to comply with a RIPE NCC audit

If a Direct Assignment User does not comply with a RIPE NCC audit regarding an assignment of an Independent resource, the RIPE NCC will deregister the relevant records. Non-compliance includes, but is not limited to, unresponsiveness to or uncooperativeness with the RIPE NCC auditors' requests. For more information about the audit procedure, please see [NEW audit procedure]

h. Court order

The RIPE NCC is an association under Dutch law. In the event a Dutch court orders deregistration of specific Internet number resources, the RIPE NCC must and will comply.

2. Procedures for deregistration of different types of Internet number resources

2.1 Provider Aggregatable (PA) allocations and Independent resources for Contributor's own network

The RIPE NCC will send an official notification by email to all registered contacts stating that the PA allocation/Independent resources will be deregistered, explaining the reasons for this deregistration and the procedure of the deregistration. The Contributor will not be able make any further assignments from the PA allocations.

Should the Contributor respond within four weeks, the RIPE NCC will provide a timeframe of three months for the Contributors to take care of any actions necessary for the deregistration of the Internet number resources. In the case of PA allocations, Contributors are responsible for requesting that their customers renumber immediately and for providing them with all available options. In particular, Contributors must refer their customers to the list of LIRs. This list is available at:

<https://www.ripe.net/membership/indices/index.html>

During the three-month period:

- The Contributor must stop announcing the PA allocation/Independent resources
- The RIPE NCC will change the **mnt-by** object on the Contributor's records to the status "deregistered maintainer"
- A warning statement is added to the relevant records of the RIPE Database mentioning the upcoming deregistration of the Internet number resources

After the three-month period, the allocation/assignment will be deregistered from the RIPE Database.

Should the Contributor not react within four weeks, the RIPE NCC will:

- Change the **mnt-by** object on the Contributor's records to the status "deregistered maintainer"; and/or
- Add a warning statement to the relevant records in the RIPE Database mentioning the upcoming deregistration of the Internet number resources; and/or
- Withdraw the reverse delegation; and/or
- Contact the upstream to investigate possible hijacking of Internet number resources; and/or
- Delete all relevant objects in the RIPE Database, including allocation/assignment and **route** objects

The sole purpose of these actions by the RIPE NCC is for deregistration of the Internet number resources to reflect reality. As a result, if the Internet number resources are no longer announced after one of these actions, the RIPE NCC might not perform any other actions.

Please note:

If the Contributor responds but with no intention to comply or objects at some point within the four-week period, the RIPE NCC will allow the time remaining in this four-week period for the Contributor to submit evidence that there is no reason for the deregistration of the Internet number resources or to request arbitration (see RIPE NCC Conflict Arbitration Procedure). However, if the four-week period expires without the submission of such evidence by the Contributor or without the submission of a request for arbitration, the RIPE NCC will proceed as if the Contributor had never reacted (see relevant procedure above). The Contributor may still request arbitration according to the timeframes of the RIPE NCC Conflict Arbitration Procedure. If the Contributor requests arbitration, the RIPE NCC will change the **mnt-by** object on the relevant records to the status "maintainer in dispute" and a warning statement will be added to the relevant records of the RIPE Database until the communication of the arbiter's ruling.

2.2 Independent resources assigned through a "sponsoring LIR"

The RIPE NCC will send an official notification to all registered contacts stating that the Independent resources will be deregistered, explaining the reasons for this deregistration and the procedure for the deregistration. The Contributor must immediately inform the End User about the imminent deregistration.

During this period:

- The End User must stop announcing the Independent resources
- The RIPE NCC will change the **mnt-by** object on the relevant records to the status "deregistered maintainer"
- A warning statement is added to the relevant records of the RIPE Database mentioning the upcoming deregistration of the Internet number resources

After the three-month period, the Independent resources will be deregistered from the RIPE Database.

Should the Contributor not react within four weeks, the RIPE NCC will:

- Change the **mnt-by** object on the relevant records to the status “deregistered maintainer”; and/or
- Add a warning statement to the relevant records in the RIPE Database mentioning the upcoming deregistration of the Internet number resources; and/or
- Withdraw the reverse delegation; and/or
- Contact the upstream to investigate possible hijacking of Internet number resources; and/or
- Delete all relevant objects in the RIPE Database, including allocation/assignment and **route** objects

The sole purpose of these actions by the RIPE NCC is for deregistration of the Internet number resources to reflect reality. As a result, if the Internet number resources are no longer announced after one of these actions, the RIPE NCC might not perform any other actions.

Please note:

If the Contributor responds but with no intention to comply or objects at some point within the four-week period, the RIPE NCC will allow the time remaining in this four-week period for the Contributor to submit evidence that there is no reason for deregistration of the Internet number resources or to request arbitration (see RIPE NCC Conflict Arbitration Procedure). However, if the four-week period expires without the submission of such evidence by the Contributor or without the submission of a request for arbitration, the RIPE NCC will proceed as if the Contributor had never reacted (see relevant procedure above). The Contributor may still request arbitration according to the timeframes of the RIPE NCC Conflict Arbitration Procedure. If the Contributor requests arbitration, the RIPE NCC will change the **mnt-by** object on the relevant records to the status “maintainer in dispute” and a warning statement will be added to the relevant records of the RIPE Database until the communication of the arbiter’s ruling.

2.3. Independent resources directly assigned by the RIPE NCC to Direct Assignment Users

The RIPE NCC will send an official notification by email to all registered contacts stating that the Independent resources will be deregistered, explaining the reasons for this deregistration and the procedure for the deregistration.

Should the Direct Assignment User respond within four weeks, the RIPE NCC will provide a timeframe of three months for the Direct Assignment User to take care of any actions necessary for the deregistration of the Internet number resources.

During the three-month period:

- The Direct Assignment User must stop announcing the Independent resources
- The RIPE NCC will change the **mnt-by** object on the Direct Assignment User's records to the status "deregistered maintainer"
- A warning statement is added to the relevant records of the RIPE Database mentioning the upcoming deregistration of the Internet number resources

After the three-month period, the Independent resources will be deregistered from the RIPE Database.

Should the Direct Assignment User not react within four weeks, the RIPE NCC will:

- Change the **mnt-by** object on the Contributor's records to the status "deregistered maintainer"; and/or
- Add a warning statement to the relevant records in the RIPE Database mentioning the upcoming deregistration of the Internet number resources; and/or
- Withdraw the reverse delegation; and/or
- Contact the upstream to investigate possible hijacking of Internet number resources; and/or
- Delete all relevant objects in the RIPE Database, including assignment and **route** objects

The sole purpose of these actions by the RIPE NCC is for deregistration of the Internet number resources to reflect reality. As a result, if the Internet number resources are no longer announced after one of these actions, the RIPE NCC might not perform any other actions.

Please note:

If the Direct Assignment User responds but with no intention to comply or objects at some point within the four-week period, the RIPE NCC will allow the time remaining in this four-week period for the Direct Assignment User to submit evidence that there is no reason for deregistration of the Internet number resources or to request arbitration (see RIPE NCC Conflict Arbitration Procedure). However, if the four-week period expires without the submission of such evidence by the Direct Assignment User or without the submission of a request for arbitration, the RIPE NCC will proceed as if the Direct Assignment User had never reacted (see relevant procedure above).

The Direct Assignment User may still request arbitration according to the timeframes of the RIPE NCC Conflict Arbitration procedure. If the Contributor requests arbitration, the RIPE NCC will change the **mnt-by** object on the relevant records to the status "maintainer in dispute" and a warning statement will be added to the relevant records of the RIPE Database until the communication of the arbiter's ruling.

NOTE: This document might change due to future policy changes. If this happens, the RIPE NCC will send a notification to the RIPE NCC Services Working Group mailing list.

DRAFT