

Choice Hotels International Incremental Impact Policy

(Updated January 1, 2019)

Choice Hotels International, Inc. ("Choice") establishes this domestic Incremental Impact Policy ("Policy") to assist Choice and Choice's franchisees ("you") in pursuing the important mutual goals of i) avoiding an unfair depletion of your room revenues through same-brand competition, and ii) expanding the various Choice hotel brand systems.

Under this Policy, your hotel will be granted an Area of Enhanced Protection in which Choice will not generally grant hotel franchises for the same brand as your hotel. Additionally, you will be granted the right to object to (and, possibly, to exclude) same-brand franchises that are proposed to be located within a specified radius from your hotel determined by the market and location of the applying franchise. Finally, this Policy grants you certain other objection rights if your hotel is newly constructed, is located within a declining market or has recently had an incremental impact study conclude in its favor. If you have a negotiated exclusive territory in your contract and waived rights outside of that negotiated territory, impact policy rights do not apply.

I. **Definitions:**

- **Incremental Impact** - For the purposes of this Policy, "incremental impact" means that portion of projected room revenue loss for an existing Choice hotel which is **solely** attributable to the subject applicant's proposed hotel being part of the same Choice hotel brand system.
- **Good Standing** - For the purposes of this Policy, a Choice hotel is in "good standing" if:
 - It is not 90 days past due on its franchise and related fees or assessments without Choice approved repayment plan in place; (See Interpretational Note No. 1);
 - It is not in red status of the performance zone program;
 - It is not subject to a notice of non-renewal or termination; and
 - It is not subject to a notice of default for a material obligation under its Franchise Agreement (and other related agreements) after expiration of any applicable cure period.

II. **Area of Enhanced Protection:**

Each Choice hotel is hereby granted an Area of Enhanced Protection for such time as it remains in good standing. The Area of Enhanced Protection for your hotel is determined by identifying your hotel's appropriate market category in the chart below (e.g., Primary/Airport) and is expressed in terms of radial miles from your hotel. The pre-defined market categories set forth in the chart and your hotel's appropriate placement within these categories will be determined from Smith Travel Research data, if available (See Interpretational Note No. 3).

	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary
Airport	1	5	7
Highway	2	5	7
Urban	.5	1.5	5
Resort	1	5	7
Suburban	2	5	5
Small Town Metro	2	5	7

Except as set forth below, Choice will not grant a franchise for a same-brand hotel within your hotel's Area of Enhanced Protection.

- o ***When Choice Can Approve an Application Within Your Hotel's Area of Enhanced Protection:***

Notwithstanding the Area of Enhanced Protection granted to your hotel above, Choice will initiate an incremental impact study, providing your hotel is in good standing, when it receives a franchise application for a same-brand hotel to be located within your hotel's Area of Enhanced Protection if Choice determines that the market containing your hotel is inadequately served by that Choice brand system. You must formally object to the application in order for Choice to initiate the incremental impact study. If the incremental impact study concludes that the proposed franchise will not result in an incremental impact of more than a 5% reduction in your hotel's annual gross room revenues in any of the first 3 years of projections, Choice may grant the proposed franchise. You will select the consulting firm to perform the incremental impact study from the approved consultant list and Choice will pay for the study, regardless of the outcome.

III. Your Objection Rights for Applications Outside Your Hotel's Area of Enhanced Protection:

In addition to the Area of Enhanced Protection granted in Section II, you have the right to object to (and, possibly, to exclude) any franchise application for a same-brand hotel, if your hotel is located within a specified radius of the location of the applying franchise. The notification areas are determined by identifying the applying franchise's appropriate market category in the chart below and is expressed in terms of radial miles.

Primary	Secondary	Tertiary
7	10	15

You can object by following the procedures set forth below:

- o ***Notice to You of an Application Received by Choice:***

Choice will notify, in writing, your Designated Representative and the General Manager of your hotel of any franchise application for a same-brand hotel to be located within the specified notification areas noted above. In addition to same-brand notification, Choice will also notify by email all other Choice branded hotels included in the Impact Policy within a 5-mile radius of the proposed hotel. You will have the right to object to a franchise application, however, only if it is for a same-brand hotel to be located within the specified notification areas. If requested, Choice will deliver the above notice by fax. You should address written requests for faxed notification to:

*Ms. Shellome Pinnock
Ombudsperson
One Choice Hotels Circle
Suite 400
Rockville, MD 20850
(301) 592-6165
FAX (301) 592-6360*

Please include your property code and the name, address and fax number of the person to whom the notice should be faxed.

o ***Your options upon receiving a notice:***

You may object to a franchise application for a same-brand hotel to be located within the specified notification areas if your hotel is in good standing at the time Choice issues notification of the application, provided your hotel does not subsequently become subject to a notice of non-renewal or termination. You may object by electing either or both of the objection options set forth below:

Option A: Letter Objection

You may write a Letter Objection and deliver it to Shellome Pinnock, Ombudsperson, (via the address or fax previously listed or via email ombudsperson@choicehotels.com) within 15 calendar days after Choice issues notification of a franchise application for a same-brand hotel, providing Choice with information you would like us to consider when reviewing the application. Before acting upon the application, Choice will fairly consider your letter and any information you submit in support.

Choosing to exercise Option A does not preclude you from also exercising Option B, provided you do so in a timely manner.

Option B: Formal Objection

You may file a Formal Objection to a franchise application for a same-brand hotel by completing an "Incremental Impact Form" (attached hereto) and delivering it to Shellome Pinnock, Ombudsperson, (via the address or fax previously listed or via email ombudsperson@choicehotels.com) within 15 calendar days after Choice issues notification of the application. This option must be selected for you to be eligible to request an incremental impact study.

Upon sending your Formal Objection, contact the Ombudsperson or another representative of Choice if you would like to discuss your objection ("impact discussion"). If this impact discussion does not resolve your objection concerns, you may request an independent incremental impact study by an approved hotel consulting firm that you choose from the attached list. Each firm is a member of the International Society of Hospitality Consultants and is experienced in performing incremental impact studies. Your request for an incremental impact study must be made in writing to the Ombudsperson within 5 business days after receipt of the impact study correspondence sent by Choice and must include a check for the full incremental impact study fee made payable to Choice Hotels International. During that 5-day period, you may request an extension of the 5-day period, which Choice may, in its sole discretion, grant under compelling circumstances. The amount of the incremental impact study fee charged by each individual consulting firm is set forth on the approved list (and may be exclusive of expenses). The consulting firm you select will be contacted by Choice. If the selected firm cannot complete the study within 28 days, you will be contacted by the Ombudsperson and asked to select another consulting firm. You must notify the Ombudsperson of your new selection within 48 hours.

Following receipt of the incremental impact study results (approximately 28 days), Choice will deny the subject application if the study concludes that the proposed franchise will result in incremental impact of more than a 5% reduction in your hotel's annual gross room revenues in any of the first 3 years of projections. Moreover, if you signed your franchise agreement for a new construction hotel within 18 months prior to Choice's issuance of notification of the subject application, Choice will deny the application if the incremental impact study concludes that the proposed franchise will result in incremental impact of more than a 3% reduction in your hotel's annual gross room revenues in any of the first 3 years of projections. If Choice denies the application due to the results of the incremental impact study, Choice will refund the incremental impact study fee you paid.

If the incremental impact study concludes that the proposed franchise will not result in an incremental impact of more than a 5% reduction (or 3% reduction, if applicable) in your hotel's annual gross room revenues in each of the first 3 years of projections, Choice may approve the subject application in its sole discretion. In that event, you will forfeit the incremental impact study fee you paid and you will be obligated to remit the balance of any fees or expenses due the consulting firm by submitting a check payable to Choice Hotels International.

If your hotel is a designated winner of a Gold or Platinum Award at the time you file your Formal Objection, Choice will bear the cost of the incremental impact study regardless of the outcome.

Choice will refund any incremental impact study fees you paid if the franchise you objected to is terminated due to failure to commence construction or to complete a BES addendum.

IV. Your Additional Rights:

Along with the rights granted to you in Sections II and III, you are granted the following additional rights:

- If an incremental impact study concludes against your hotel's favor, you may request a second incremental impact study ("second study") not less than 365 days and not more than 400 days after the hotel you objected to ("new hotel") opens to the public. In the event the second study concludes that the new hotel resulted in an incremental impact of more than a 5% reduction in your hotel's gross room revenues in the first year of the new hotel's operation, you may terminate your Choice Franchise Agreement, without payment of liquidated damages. You must submit the applicable incremental impact study fee at the time you request the second study, and the fee will be non-refundable, regardless of outcome.
- If an incremental impact study concludes in your hotel's favor, Choice will not, for a period of 12 months following the study, accept any franchise applications for a same-brand hotel to be located within your hotel's submarket (as such submarket is defined by the previous study).
- Choice will not approve any franchise application for a same-brand hotel to be located within your hotel's market tract (as such market tract is defined by Smith Travel Research) if your hotel is in a declining market, is operating below a 52% annual occupancy, is in good standing at the time Choice issues notification of the application and is operating at a RevPAR yield of at least 95% of your hotel's local competitive set. You must notify Choice in writing that you believe you qualify for the protections afforded by this paragraph within 15 days after Choice issues notification of a same-brand franchise application.

V. Choice's Right to Replace Franchises

Notwithstanding the Area of Enhanced Protection granted in Section II or the additional rights of exclusion granted in Sections III and IV, Choice reserves the right to replace any franchise which has departed or which is scheduled to depart from a Choice brand system ("departed/departing franchise") with a same-brand franchise, located anywhere within the Area of Enhanced Protection of the departed/departing franchise. Choice, however, will not grant a replacement franchise if it is to be located within the Area of Enhanced Protection of a same-brand hotel in good standing, unless the departed/departing franchise was/is already located in such same-brand hotel's Area of Enhanced Protection.

For the purpose of this provision, a "departed/departing franchise" means any open hotel, executed franchise agreement or approved franchise application. Moreover, Choice will not grant a replacement franchise if the replacement hotel would entail more than a 50% increase in the number of rooms over that of the departed/departing franchise. If a replacement franchise is to be granted for a hotel to be located within a specified radius from your hotel, determined by the market and location of the applying franchise, we will notify you of this action.

VI. Scope and Term of This Policy

This Policy shall apply to all Choice hotels that are part of the Clarion, Comfort, Quality, Sleep, Econo Lodge, Rodeway, or MainStay brands (including all hotels that are part of any sub-segment of those brands, such as Comfort Suites, for example) and that are located in the United States of America (including all not-yet-operating hotels that are subject to a Choice Franchise Agreement) and its provisions shall be in effect until such time this Policy is withdrawn, amended or modified. Any withdrawal, amendment or modification of this Policy shall be within Choice's sole discretion.

Interpretational Notes

1. In assessing the payment history component of the "good standing" requirement under Section I of the Impact Policy, Choice will consider the payment history for only those fees or charges contained in the Monthly Franchise Services Invoice. These charges include, without limitation, royalty fees, marketing fees, reservation fees, franchise association dues, technology services fees (Choice Link support, Profit Manager support) and hardware sublease payments. Travel Agent commissions are not included in the Monthly Franchise Services Invoice.

In assessing the payment history component of the "good standing" requirement under Section I of the Impact Policy, a hotel will be considered "past due" only if it has been 90 days late beyond the contractual due date in making payment on the Monthly Franchise Services Invoice over the payment history period being considered without of repayment plan in place.

2. If a property has expressly waived impact rights to a specific brand, such property's rights under this Policy, including the Area of Enhanced Protection, do not apply to applications within that specific brand system.
3. With respect to the Area of Enhanced Protection chart set forth in Section II of the Impact Policy, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

Primary: All market tracts contained **within any of the top fifty Metropolitan Statistical Areas** identified by Smith Travel based on total room supply.

Secondary: All market tracts contained **within all BUT the top fifty Metropolitan Statistical Areas** identified by Smith Travel based on total room supply

Tertiary: All market tracts contained **within any of the Non-Metropolitan Statistical Areas** identified by Smith Travel.

Resort hotels in cities located in Tertiary (Non-MSA) markets

Primary: Cities with over 2,000 resort rooms

Secondary: Cities with 1,000 – 1,999 resort rooms

Tertiary: Cities with less than 1,000 resort rooms