

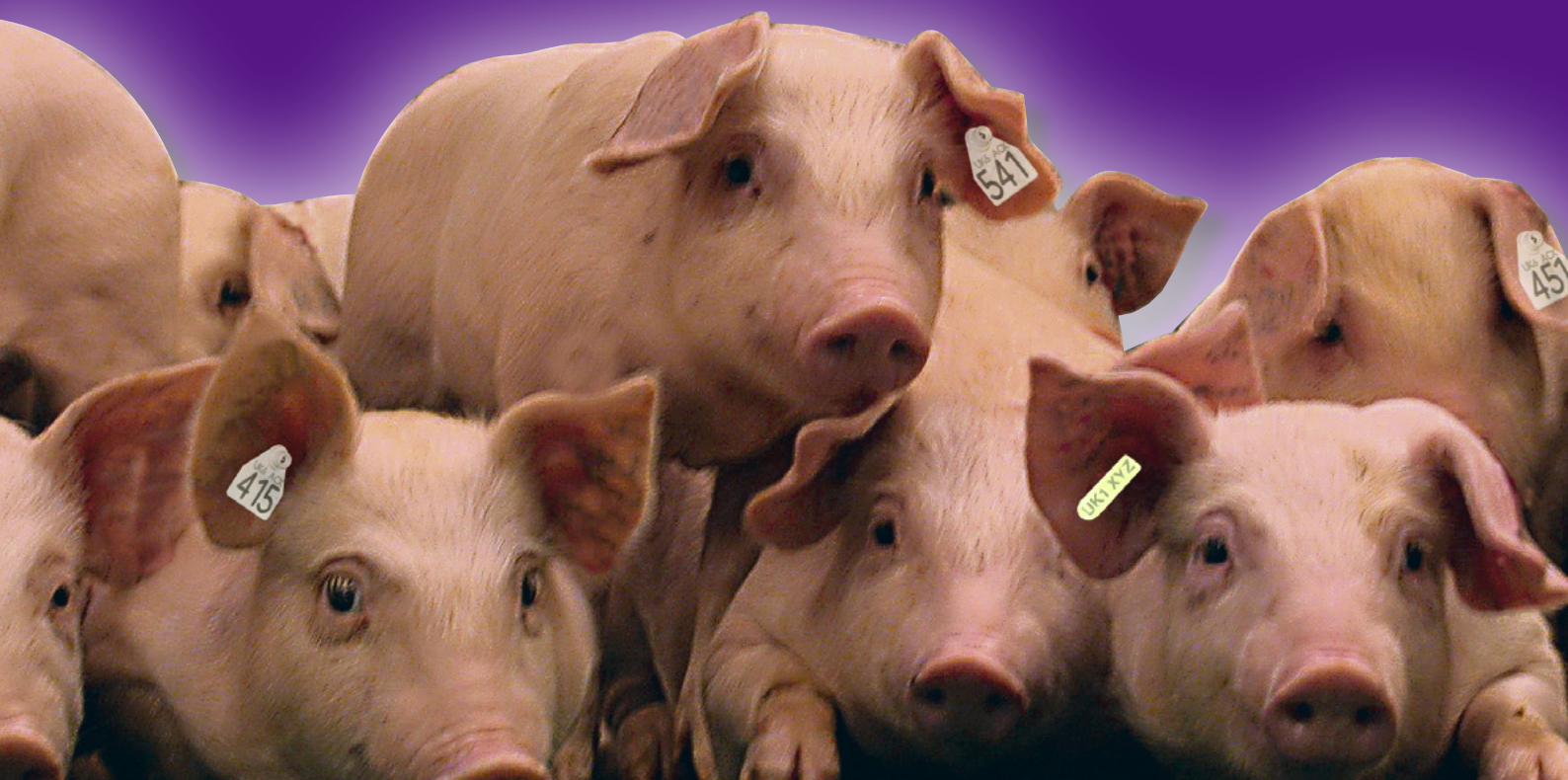


Department of  
**Agriculture, Environment  
and Rural Affairs**

[www.daera-ni.gov.uk](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk)

# Guidance for Keepers

## Registration of Pig Holdings and Identification and Movement of Pigs



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# Introduction

- 1.1. The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) has published this guidance to explain to keepers the system adopted in Northern Ireland for the registration of pig holdings, and the identification and movement of pigs. The system implements Council Directive 2008/71/EC (the EU Directive).
- 1.2. We have provided a glossary of terms at Annex 1.
- 1.3. These rules are laid down in the Pigs (Records, Identification and Movement) Order (Northern Ireland) 2012. This legislation replaced the identification and movement components of the Aujeszky's Disease Order (Northern Ireland) 1994, the Aujeszky's Disease Scheme Order (Northern Ireland) 1994 and the Animals (Records) Order (Northern Ireland) 1997.
- 1.4. The rules in this guidance apply from 19 March 2012.
- 1.5. The rules have been simplified in line with the Better Regulation principles while ensuring that the requirements of the EU Directive are implemented and that traceability is maintained.
- 1.6. Under the new system you must identify all pigs before moving them from the holding of birth, or by 6 months of age, whichever is sooner. Pigs over 6 months of age (and breeding pigs that are identified under 6 months of age) must be identified with an eartag bearing a full identification mark (holding code and individual number). Slaughter pigs that are under 6 months of age can be identified with a holding code only, applied as an eartag, ear tattoo or slapmark; or if they are moving directly to a meat plant, the slapmark may bear a curer mark rather than the holding code.
- 1.7. When pigs move from your holding they must always be accompanied by a movement document. We will send you a new movement document book. This replaces the 3 types of movement book used previously.
- 1.8. We have summarised the steps you need to take for identification and movement recording at Annex 2.
- 1.9. We will also send you a new holding register. We have simplified the new register so that you will be able to complete it more quickly and accurately. You must cross-reference movement documents in the register and retain all documents together.
- 1.10. We have summarised the key dates and the time limits for identifying pigs and completing records at Annex 3.
- 1.11. We have published more detailed information in the Frequently Asked Questions document on the DAERA website at: [www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/identification-registration-and-movement-pigs](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/identification-registration-and-movement-pigs) or you can request a copy from your local DAERA Office.

# Registration of Holdings

## What is a holding?

- 2.1 A holding is “any establishment, construction, or in the case of an open air farm, any place in which pigs are held, kept or handled” and includes land with or without buildings.
- 2.2 This means that the registration, identification, record keeping and movement recording rules apply to farms, small holdings, petting farms, markets, meat plants, shows and other premises, including domestic residences, where even a single pig is handled or kept.

## What is a premises?

- 2.3 A premises is “each site on which pigs are kept within a holding”, such as the home farm or an outfarm. Therefore a holding may have a number of premises.

## New holdings

- 2.4 If you intend to keep pigs, even a single pig kept as a pet, you must register with DAERA as a keeper and obtain a holding code. You must have a holding code before you move any pigs onto your holding.
- 2.5 You must provide DAERA with the details of all premises on which you will keep pigs, and the details of any other livestock on your holding.

## Existing holdings

- 2.6 If you had a holding code prior to the new legislation coming into operation, it will not change. However, you should ensure that the registration details held by DAERA are accurate, and ask us to update them if necessary.

## All premises on DAERA records

- 2.7 You must inform DAERA of the details of all premises on which you keep pigs.
- 2.8 You must ensure that we have been notified of the premises before you move pigs onto that site.
- 2.9 You must notify DAERA within 7 days if any of the details you provided when you first registered your holding change, for example, your address, the address of the holding, the address of any premises used to keep pigs, if you stop keeping pigs or details of other livestock on the holding.

# Identification

## Identification (ID) of pigs

- 3.1 You must identify all pigs born on your holding before they leave, or before they reach 6 months of age, whichever is the earlier. You do not have to identify pigs under the age of 6 months unless you are moving them off your holding.
- 3.2 You must source eartags from a licensed tag supplier who will print your holding code on them. Where a unique individual identification (ID) number is required on an eartag you can ask the tag supplier to print it for you, or you can write it by hand in indelible ink.
- 3.3 You must only accept pigs onto your holding if they are correctly identified.

## Pigs for slaughter under 6 months of age

- 3.4 Pigs destined for slaughter under the age of 6 months must be identified with **an eartag, an ear tattoo or a slapmark bearing a holding code**. This applies to pigs moving to another holding for further production and to pigs moving directly to slaughter. You can apply a unique individual ID number in addition to the holding number if you wish.
- 3.5 If you are moving pigs under the age of 6 months directly to slaughter you may, as an alternative to your holding code, apply a slapmark bearing a **curer mark** registered on APHIS for use on your pigs.

## Breeding pigs

- 3.6 Pigs that you will keep on your holding beyond 6 months of age, and any breeding pigs that you move off your holding before this, must be tagged with an **eartag bearing a full ID mark**. This includes a holding code and an individual ID number.
- 3.7 Each pig must bear a unique ID mark. Therefore when you have applied an individual ID number to a pig you must ensure that it is not applied to any other pig.
- 3.8 You must not identify a pig with your holding code and two different individual ID numbers. If you choose, you may apply an additional eartag, ear tattoo or slapmark bearing the same unique ID mark to the same pig. However, an ear tattoo or slapmark is not an official means of ID for breeding pigs.
- 3.9 For pigs that you have brought onto your holding from another holding you can apply a new ID mark for management purposes if you choose. You must leave the original ID mark in place and if it remains legible you do not have to cross-reference the old and new ID marks in your holding register. You must record the new ID mark on the movement document if you later move the pig off your holding.

## Replacing identification (ID) marks

- 3.10 If an ID mark is lost or becomes illegible you must replace it within 28 days of discovery or before the pig leaves your holding, whichever is the earliest.
- 3.11 If the pig was born on your holding you can replace the lost or illegible ID mark with either an **identical mark** or a **new ID mark** bearing your holding code and, if appropriate, an individual ID number. If the pig was not born on your holding you must apply a **new ID mark**. If you replace a lost or illegible ID mark with a different mark, you must record this in your holding register.
- 3.12 You must not remove or deface any ID marks unless authorised by DAERA. However, if an eartag has caused welfare problems you can remove and replace it within 28 days, provided you cross-reference the old and new ID marks in your holding register.

## Movement to a Show, Market or Export

- 3.13 You must ensure that any pigs moving to a show, market or export are identified with an eartag bearing a full ID mark.

## Means of identification

- 3.14 Eartags do not have to be approved by DAERA but they must be easy to read during the pig's lifetime, tamper-resistant, incapable of reuse, and designed to remain attached to the pig without harming it. They can be made of metal or plastic and can be any colour.
- 3.15 You must not accept onto your holding, or apply, any eartags printed with another keeper's holding code. You must not apply any ear tattoos or slapmarks with another keeper's holding code.
- 3.16 Ear tattoos and slapmarks must be easy to read during the pig's lifetime. You must not use slapmarks to identify pigs going to a finishing unit on a different holding unless they will be easy to read for the remainder of the pig's life. Slapmarks may therefore not be suitable in many cases and you should apply an eartag or ear tattoo instead.
- 3.17 You should ensure that all means of ID are of suitable size and design for the age and weight of the pig. Also ensure that you follow the manufacturer's instructions when applying a means of ID and that you carry out the proper hygiene requirements to prevent infection.
- 3.18 You can apply management information on means of ID, as long as this information does not interfere with the official ID mark.

## Options for Identification

3.19 The following table sets out the means of identification (ID) and the ID mark that you can use for each type of pig.

Type of pig	Means of ID	ID Mark	For example:
For pigs destined for slaughter under 6 months of age	Eartag	<i>Full ID Mark</i>	UK1XYZ 1234
	Eartag	<i>Holding code</i>	UK1XYZ
	Ear Tattoo	<i>Holding code</i>	UK1XYZ
	Slapmark	<i>Holding code</i>	UK1XYZ
	Slapmark	<i>Curer mark</i>	6548
	(for movement direct to slaughter only)		
For - (1) all pigs when they reach 6 months of age; (2) breeding pigs if they move before 6 months of age; and (3) all pigs moving to shows, markets or export.	Eartag	<i>Full ID Mark</i>	UK1XYZ 1234

## List of terms

3.20 The following terms are used in this guidance to refer to the identification (ID) of pigs:

**Means of ID** - an eartag, ear tattoo, or slapmark (applied to a shoulder of a pig).

**Curer Mark** - a code of up to 4 characters allocated to you by a meat plant and registered by DAERA on APHIS.

**Holding Code** - a 6 character code allocated by DAERA to the keeper at each holding.

**Full ID Mark** - a holding code and individual ID number together.

**ID Mark** - a holding code, individual ID number, or curer mark.

**Individual ID Number** - a unique number of up to 4 digits, allocated to each pig by the keeper.

# Movement Recording

## **New movement documents**

- 4.1 DAERA will send you a new movement document book. You must start to use the new book as soon as you receive it. The book will contain detailed guidance on how to complete the movement documents.
- 4.2 We will link each document on APHIS to your holding using a serial number. You must only use the movement book allocated to you.
- 4.3 You must not receive any pigs onto your holding unless the previous keeper gives you a correctly completed movement document.

## **Completion and retention of movement documents**

- 4.4 If you move pigs off your holding you must fully complete and sign a movement document. This must include the ID marks on the pigs. If the pigs bear full ID marks you must record them in full.
- 4.5 For pigs that you had brought onto your holding, as an alternative to recording the original ID mark, you can choose to apply a new ID mark before you move them off your holding and record this on the movement document. This applies for both slaughter and breeding pigs. You must leave the original ID mark in place and if it remains legible you do not have to cross-reference the old and new ID marks in your holding register.
- 4.6 The movement document must accompany the pigs during transit and must be given to the keeper at the destination holding. If you receive pigs onto your holding you must check that the ID marks are correctly recorded and complete and sign the movement document.
- 4.7 You must keep a copy of all movement documents for movements both on and off your holding with your holding register for at least 3 years.



## Notification to DAERA

- 4.8 You must send a copy of the movement document to DAERA within 7 days of the movement of pigs off your holding. However, this is not required where the movement is to a meat plant, market or show, as they will notify the movement to DAERA on your behalf. Movement documents for farm to farm moves can be hand delivered or posted to your local DAERA Office.
- 4.9 The new movement document will allow you to record Food Chain Information (FCI), Welfare of Animals in Transport information for short journeys and Quality Assurance information.

# Holding Register

## New holding register

- 5.1 DAERA will send you a new holding register. You must start using the new register when you receive it. However, you can keep your records in an alternative format if you wish, including electronically, provided you include all of the required information and keep the records in date order.
- 5.2 You must retain both your old and new register for 3 years from the date of the last entry.

## Completion of your holding register

- 5.3 You must record births, deaths, the replacement of lost or illegible ID marks, and movements on and off your holding.
- 5.4 For birth records, complete your register within 48 hours of identifying your pigs. Simply record the number of pigs identified and the date of identification. If you first identify pigs born on your holding at the point of moving them, you can record the birth and movement together in your register. You do not have to record the ID marks.
- 5.5 For deaths, you must record the number of identified pigs that have died and the date of discovering the death, within 48 hours of discovery. However, you may record all mortalities in the register as this is required under the Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations. You do not have to record the ID marks.
- 5.6 If you replace a lost or illegible ID mark with a different mark you must always record the new ID mark in your holding register within 48 hours. You must also record the old ID mark if you know it. This cross-reference is an EU Directive requirement and is necessary to maintain traceability.
- 5.7 For movements, you must record the serial number of each movement document for the movement of pigs both to and from your holding, along with the date of movement and the number of pigs moved. You must record this within 48 hours of the movement.
- 5.8 Once per year you must make a record of the total number of pigs on your holding.

# Number of Pigs on your Holding

- 6.1. DAERA will write to you once each year to ask you how many pigs you have on your holding. This will allow us to arrange appropriate levels of Aujeszky's Disease monitoring. We will combine this return with the Farm Census, which you will not need to complete separately.
- 6.2. You must count the number of pigs on your holding and the categories to which they belong and return this information to DAERA by the date specified.

# Meat Plants, Markets, Shows etc

## All premises

- 7.1 Operators of meat plants, markets, shows and other similar premises must maintain a holding register showing the origin and destination of pigs, including ID marks, which they must retain for 3 years from the date of the last entry and make available to inspectors upon request. Movement documents can form part of the register.
- 7.2 Operators must not accept pigs onto the premises unless they are identified correctly and are accompanied by a correctly completed movement document.
- 7.3 For the movement of pigs onto and off their premises meat plant, market and show operators must send a copy of the movement document to DAERA on the day of movement, or where this is not practicable on the next working day. This is not required if the information has been sent directly to APHIS.

## Meat Plants

- 7.4 A meat plant operator must not accept pigs onto their premises if they have come from a restricted holding, unless the keeper has been given a licence by DAERA to move pigs to a meat plant.
- 7.5 The operator must take reasonable steps to satisfy themselves of the traceability and provenance of the pigs.
- 7.6 The operator must complete the remainder of the movement document, including kill numbers, and retain a copy for 3 years, making it available to an inspector upon request.

## Markets

- 7.7 A market must not accept pigs onto their premises if they have come from a restricted holding, unless the keeper has been given a licence by DAERA to move pigs to a market.
- 7.8 A market operator must not accept pigs onto the market premises unless they are correctly identified with a full ID mark (a holding code and individual identification number).
- 7.9 The operator must divide pigs into groups immediately upon arrival and allocate a lot number to each group. They must record the lot number in the holding register and on the movement documents for the movement of pigs to and from the market.
- 7.10 The operator must complete the remainder of the movement document which accompanied the pigs to the market and retain a copy for 3 years, making it available to an inspector upon request.
- 7.11 For the movement of pigs out of the market, the operator must produce a movement document, which details all ID marks. The operator must give the movement document to the keeper of the holding of destination and the document must accompany the pigs during transit. The operator must retain a copy of the document for 3 years.

## Shows

- 7.12 A show operator must not accept pigs onto the show premises unless they are correctly identified with a full ID mark (a holding code and individual identification number).
- 7.13 The show operator must complete the remainder of the movement document which accompanied the pigs to the show and retain a copy for 3 years, making it available to an inspector upon request.
- 7.14 For the movement of pigs out of the show, the operator must produce a movement document, including all ID marks. The operator must give the movement document to the keeper of the holding of destination and the document must accompany the pigs during transit. The operator must retain a copy of the document for 3 years.

# Pet Pig Walking Licences

- 8.1 If you keep a pet pig you can take it for a walk on public roads or footpaths provided you have a licence to do so from DAERA. The licence means that you will not have to complete a movement document or record the move in your holding register.
- 8.2 To obtain a licence you should contact your local DAERA Office.
- 8.3 DAERA will assess the animal health risks associated with your route and will approve it if the level of risk is deemed acceptable.
- 8.4 DAERA may not approve routes for a variety of reasons, including proximity to a livestock market, a high-health status pig farm or a fast food outlet.

# Trade

## Exports

- 9.1 For trade outside Northern Ireland (i.e. to Great Britain, other European Union Member States or to countries outside the European Union) all pigs must be identified with an eartag bearing a full ID mark (holding code and individual ID number), before they leave the premises of origin. Additional slapmarks may be applied if required for commercial purposes. If during export the pigs transit an assembly centre please see section 9.4 below.

## Imports

- 9.2 If you move a pig onto your holding from a place outside Northern Ireland you must send the original import certificate and movement document to DAERA within 7 days of the pig arriving on your holding. Documents for farm to farm moves can be hand delivered or posted to your local DAERA Office.
- 9.3 If you import a pig from outside the European Union you must apply an eartag with your holding code, an individual ID number, any other information you wish, and finally the letter "F". The new ID mark must be applied within 30 days of import and before the pig leaves your holding. You must cross-reference the old and new ID marks in your holding register. This does not apply if the pig is moved directly to a meat plant and is slaughtered within 30 days of arrival.

## Additional Information

- 9.4 You can find further information on the rules for Trade on the DAERA website at [www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/animal-health-and-welfare/exporting-animals-animal-products-and-products](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/animal-health-and-welfare/exporting-animals-animal-products-and-products) or by contacting your local DAERA Office.

# Inspections

- 10.1 DAERA may inspect your holding to ensure that you are complying with the Pigs (Records, Identification and Movement) Order (Northern Ireland) 2012 and the EU Directive. You must produce your documents and records on demand, and if requested you must present them in a form which the inspector can take away.
- 10.2 If it is necessary for the enforcement of the above legislation, the inspector can serve a notice to restrict the movement of pigs to or from your holding.
- 10.3 The pig identification and movement rules form a Statutory Management Requirement (SMR) within the cross-compliance rules. A percentage of holdings are inspected each year to ensure compliance with the rules and any discrepancies detected can count towards a financial reduction in Single Farm Payment.

<b>APHIS</b>	The Animal and Public Health Information System database, in which DAERA records all pig holdings and movements of pigs.
<b>Breeding Pig</b>	A female or male pig of any age that will be used for the production of piglets.
<b>DAERA Office</b>	Your local DAERA Direct Office.
<b>EU Directive</b>	Council Directive 2008/71/EC of 15 July 2008 on the identification and registration of pigs.
<b>Holding Register</b>	This is a record that must be kept on a holding which lists births, deaths, movements, replacement identification details and on an annual basis the total number of pigs on the holding.
<b>Keeper</b>	Any person having care and control of pigs, whether on a temporary or permanent basis, but excluding those who only transport pigs.
<b>Movement Document</b>	This is the document that must be completed by the seller and must accompany the pigs during transport.
<b>Pig</b>	Any member of the <i>Suidae</i> family, including pet pigs.
<b>Slaughter pig</b>	A pig reared for meat production that is intended for slaughter under the age of 6 months.
<b>Trade</b>	The movement of pigs into or out of Northern Ireland.

# Summary of Pig Identification and Movement Recording Rules Annex 2

	From holding	To holding	Identification (ID) Apply -	Movement documents Record -
<b>Slaughter pigs</b>	Holding of birth	Meat Plant	(a) Curer mark on slapmark; or (b) Holding code on slapmark, ear tattoo or eartag.	Curer mark.  Holding code.
	Holding of birth	2nd holding	Holding code on slapmark, ear tattoo or eartag.	Holding code.
	2nd holding (e.g. a finishing unit)	Meat Plant	No further ID mark; or (a) Curer mark on slapmark; or (b) Holding code on slapmark, ear tattoo or eartag.	Original holding code. New curer mark.  New holding code.
<b>Breeding pigs</b>	Holding of birth	Meat Plant, Market, Show, 2nd Farm	Full ID mark (holding code and individual ID number) on eartag.	Full ID mark.
	Market or Show	Any other holding	No further ID mark.	Most recently applied full ID mark.
	2nd and subsequent farm	Meat Plant, Show, Market, Farm	No further ID mark; or  Full ID mark on eartag.	Most recently applied full ID mark.  New full ID mark.

N.B. All pigs moving to a Market or Show must have a full ID mark on an eartag.

## **Pigs retained on the holding of birth**

You must identify pigs that you retain on your holding by 6 months of age with an eartag bearing a full ID mark (including your holding code and an individual ID number).

## **Lost or illegible means of ID**

If a means of ID is lost or illegible apply a new ID mark and cross-reference the old and new ID marks in your register. However, if the lost or illegible means of ID had been applied on your holding you can apply an identical means of ID. Pigs over 6 months of age must always bear a full ID mark on an ear tag.



### New rules

- Follow the rules in this guidance from **19 March 2012**.

### Registration of holdings

- Register with DAERA **before** moving pigs onto your holding.
- Notify DAERA within **7 days** if your registration details change. However, notify DAERA in **advance** if you are going to start keeping pigs on new premises.

### Identification

- Identify pigs by the time they reach **6 months** of age, or before you move them off your holding, whichever is sooner.
- Replace lost or illegible identification marks as soon as possible but no later than **28 days** from discovery.

### Movement Documents

- Send movement documents to DAERA within **7 days** of the movement of pigs off your holding, except if they move to a market, meat plant or show as the operator will notify DAERA **on the day of movement** or if this is not practicable on the next working day.
- Retain all movement documents for at least **3 years**.

### Holding Register

- Complete your holding register within **48 hours** of each event (identification, movement, death or replacement of identification mark).
- Record the number of pigs on your holding in your register **once per year**.
- Retain your holding register (and the old register) for at least **3 years** from the date of the last entry.

### Number of pigs on your holding

- Complete and return the notification of the number of pigs on your holding to DAERA by **the date specified**.

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