



World Health
Organization

Global Alliance to
Eliminate Lead Paint

Eliminating lead paint matters! | April 2026



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Introduction

The Alliance is pleased to present its April 2026 newsletter in which we share updates about the ongoing work to phase out lead paint worldwide, including new lead-related resources, updates on progress towards laws, and lead paint in the news.



Upcoming Events

***Short Films for Social Change at The Impact Lounge in Oxford
(21 April 10:00–13:00 GMT | In-person only)***



At The Impact Lounge at the Marmalade Festival, Pure Earth will join leaders from the World Bank, UNDP, The Audacious Project, and the Storytelling Solutions Project to explore how film and visual storytelling can drive real social impact. The event will showcase several powerful short films, including Pure Earth's award-winning documentary ***One in 36 Million***, that are reshaping narratives around today's pressing issues. This session starts at the Phoenix Picturehouse at 10am with a short film festival and lively discussions. At 12pm, we will then head across the street to the Branca Restaurant for food, drinks, and further conversations. [Learn more and register here](#)

The Invisible Crisis: Lead, Air Pollution, and Children's Environmental Health (22 April 12:30–13:30 GMT | In-person only)



Speakers from Pure Earth, OpenAQ, the Center for Global Development, and the University of Oxford will discuss how we can move from fragmented awareness to coordinated action on lead poisoning, air pollution and toxic exposures. Participants will also explore the links between environmental health, climate action, and economic development, and the role of financing, data, and partnerships in scaling impact. [Learn more and register here](#)

Skoll World Forum Sidebar Event: Improving the Health and Futures of Over 500 Million Children (22 April 15:00–16:30 GMT | In-person only)

Co-hosted by Pure Earth and LEAF (Coefficient Giving) at the Goodman Library at Oxford University, 3x Grammy Award winner and UN Goodwill Ambassador Ricky Kej will guide a conversation anchored in real-world case studies on scalable solutions to toxic lead exposure. Pure Earth President Drew McCartor will discuss Pure Earth's ambitious goal of improving the lives of over 500 million children. The speaker



lineup also includes Tanvi Monga (TED), Dr. Lucia Coulter (Lead Exposure Elimination Project), Lee Crawford (Center for Global Development), Tom Hird (Coefficient Giving), Dr. Mary-Ann Etiebet (Vital Strategies), Tammy Tan (Lead Research for Action), Will Fitzgibbon (The Examination), and Pure Earth's Dr. Chris Kinally. [Learn more and register here](#)



Evidence to action: Preventing lead poisoning to save lives (18 May 8:00–9:30 CEST /Virtual event)

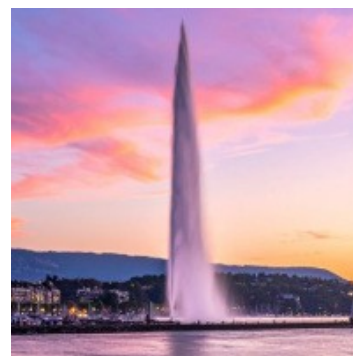


Co-hosted by WHO, Bloomberg Philanthropies and Resolve to Save Lives, this event in the margins of the World Health Assembly will set the stage for a new WHO Technical Package for Lead Poisoning Prevention, to be released together with the WHO Global Action Plan on Lead Mitigation in 2027. Drawing from country examples, public health leaders will outline actionable steps to end exposure to this toxic element.

[Register to watch the livestream here](#)

The Global Framework on Chemicals – First International Conference (16 – 20 November 2026)

The First International Conference will take place from 16 to 20 November 2026 at the Geneva International Conference Center in Switzerland. The conference will feature a high-level segment, bringing together governments, industry, companies, and non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations, for a planet free of harm from chemicals and waste. The Global Framework on Chemicals provides the foundation for a future in which humanity benefits from chemicals in a safe and sustainable way. Its five strategic objectives and 28 targets guide countries and stakeholders to address the full lifecycle of chemicals, including products and waste, while preventing harmful impacts on human health and the environment.



Recent Events

Towards a coordinated, multi-sectoral lead management approach in Latin America and Caribbean region (30 October 2025)



The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), with support from the European Union, facilitated an online regional consultation on lead sources and management in Latin America and Caribbean countries, following similar initiatives in Africa and Asia-Pacific. The consultation aimed at assessing the feasibility of a coordinated, multi-sectoral approach by countries in Latin America and Caribbean region to manage lead exposure. Objectives included sharing information on current lead management efforts and needs, identifying major sources of exposure and existing regulations, showcasing country-level strategies, and discussing barriers and opportunities for implementing coordinated lead reduction actions across sectors. The full report

and meeting recording can be accessed [here](#).

LEEP and UNEP Regional Lead Paint Regulation Capacity Building Workshops (28–29 January 2026, Nairobi, Kenya and 11–12 February 2026, Lome, Togo)

Lead Exposure Elimination Project (LEEP) in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)'s Chemicals and Health Branch and the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) and the Ministry of the Environment, Forest Resources, Coastal Protection and Climate Change of Togo organized two regional capacity-building workshops to catalyze government commitments and accelerate implementation of lead paint regulations across Africa. These workshops brought together government representatives, industry, and civil society to strengthen national and regional action toward implementing and enforcing lead paint regulation. The primary objectives of the workshops were to catalyze government commitments to adopt or strengthen lead paint regulations; build political momentum for lead paint elimination through peer learning, regional coordination, and high-level ministerial engagement; and strengthen technical capacity among government officials on regulatory approaches, enforcement mechanisms, and paint industry engagement. The workshop generated strong political momentum, with renewed country commitments, deep technical engagement, and presentations from paint manufacturers demonstrating pathways to transition to lead-free materials. Several governments have already initiated follow-up actions, including launching paint studies and beginning stakeholder consultations to inform new regulations.

Hybrid Expert Group Meeting to develop the measurability structure of the Global Framework on Chemicals (19–20 February 2026)

WHO led the task group on the Global Burden of Disease high-level indicator, which includes lead being the largest contributor to the GBD estimates for selected chemicals [published by WHO](#) and the Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation.

Among existing indicators with custodians, the Number of countries with Legally binding controls on lead paint, as tracked from the [WHO Global Health Observatory](#), is included among the list of proposed indicators to be adopted at the first International Conference of GFC in November 2026.

WHO Webinar: Strengthening Global Efforts in Lead Poisoning Prevention Confirmation (4 March 2026)

WHO hosted a webinar on elements of the WHO Global Action Plan mandated by World Health Assembly resolution 78.27 (2025) to be presented to the 80th World Health Assembly in May 2027. The webinar included draft elements of the WHO global technical package on lead poisoning prevention being developed in collaboration with Resolve To Save Lives and was attended by 120+ participants from 46 countries. Audience questions focused primarily on feasibility and implementation— particularly around laboratory capacity, surveillance systems, regulatory authority, and intersectoral coordination. Participants also sought clarification on practical challenges such as blood lead testing, enforcement mechanisms, stakeholder engagement, and how countries with limited resources can prioritize actions.

IOMC Webinar: Preparation of the Global Framework on Chemicals – First International Conference Report on Existing Emerging Policy Issues (EPIs) and other Issues of Concern (IOCs) (19 March 2026)

2026)

This sixth webinar in the series of IOMC webinars supporting the development of the [Global Framework on Chemicals](#) provided an update on the preparation of the report on existing emerging policy issues (EPIs) and other issues of concern, in response to the invitation in ICCM-5 [resolution V/5](#). This webinar provided an opportunity for the responsible IOMC organizations to present the status of the development of the report for the first International Conference and for dialogue with stakeholders for the following existing emerging policy issues (EPIs) and other issues of concern:

- [Lead in paint](#)
- [Chemicals in products](#)
- [Hazardous substance within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products](#)
- [Nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials](#)
- [Endocrine-disrupting chemicals](#)
- [Environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants](#)
- [Perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives](#)
- [Highly hazardous pesticides](#)

UNEP and WHO prepared and presented the status on lead in paint.



Partner Corner

GAELP Welcomes 1 new members

The Alliance is pleased to welcome its newest partner, the **California Institute of Environmental Design & Management (CIEDM)**. This organization joins over 100 [partners](#) who have committed to help catalyze the efforts of a diverse range of stakeholders to achieve international goals to prevent children's exposure to lead from paint and to minimize occupational exposures to lead paint. More information is available from the Alliance website on [how to become a partner and a sample letter of intent](#) to join the Lead Paint Alliance.

Update on Alliance Business Plan

**Global Alliance to
Eliminate Lead Paint**

Building on the consultations from the Extended Global Advisory Council meeting, UNEP and WHO have revised the Alliance Business Plan, which is now published and can be accessed [here](#). The business plan priorities for up to 2030 focus on eliminating lead in all types of paint through a combination of legal, industry, and advocacy efforts. Key goals include supporting governments in establishing and enforcing laws to restrict lead paint; encouraging industry to cease its manufacture, import, and sale; and raising awareness of the health and environmental risks posed by lead paint and lead chromates. The plan also emphasizes engaging Alliance partners and expanding stakeholder involvement across sectors, while coordinating with international initiatives such as the Partnership for a Lead-Free Future and the Global Framework on Chemicals to align efforts and access funding opportunities. Indicators have been developed to track and assess progress in implementing the Business Plan.

GAELP Partner Pure Earth receives the Audacious Project Grant to reduce childhood lead poisoning



Pure Earth announced an [Audacious project](#) to protect over 500 million children from lead poisoning by 2033, which reflects growing momentum in addressing childhood lead poisoning and will drive urgent progress toward the Partnership for a Lead-Free Future's collective goal of ending childhood lead poisoning by 2040. This initiative aims to strengthen national capacity to monitor blood lead levels, pinpoint key exposure sources, and design focused, country-driven prevention measures. By institutionalizing surveillance and prevention within public systems, it seeks to create lasting structures that deliver sustained impact over time.

UNICEF's work on measurement, including testing paint, strengthening regulations and supporting development of national plans



UNICEF is working with governments in four countries (Bangladesh, Cambodia, India and Viet Nam) to design large-scale environmental lead exposure surveys. The purpose of these surveys is to determine the prevalence of elevated blood lead levels (BLLs) in children (age 12–59 months) and pregnant women and to characterize key sources of exposure. Tens of thousands of environmental measurements will be taken in households and community spaces of a range of environmental media, including paints. In addition, the presence of lead contamination in various market products, such as paints, will be assessed.

Across several countries, UNICEF is supporting efforts to strengthen regulatory frameworks on lead, including in paint, by promoting more integrated and cross-sectoral approaches that link consumer products, environmental sources, and public health. This includes support to regulatory reviews, policy development, and institutional coordination, alongside efforts to strengthen compliance and enforcement systems. In Bhutan, work is underway to address lead across multiple sectors, including paints, through coordinated regulatory action. In Viet Nam, regulatory review processes have also considered paints as part of a wider assessment of legal and institutional frameworks.

UNICEF is supporting comprehensive Children's Environmental Health Assessments (CEHAs) in 14 countries, which include systematic literature and desk reviews to identify key sources of lead exposure, including lead in paint, assessing existing mechanisms for prevention and response, and highlight critical gaps that require action. Across 34 countries, UNICEF is providing technical assistance to drive advocacy, strengthen multi-sectoral coordination and develop action plans for addressing sources of lead exposure. In Peru, UNICEF's high-level advocacy and participation in the multi-sectoral working group on heavy metals contributed to regulatory reform in 2025 establishing a maximum limit of 90 parts per million (ppm) of lead in paints, strengthening safeguards against lead in paints and other coating materials.

Updates from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Federal Interagency Efforts



EPA is continuing work under the government-wide [Federal Action Plan to Reduce Childhood Lead Exposure](#) by addressing lead under various statutory authorities and responsibilities. Recently, EPA shared its [annual commitments](#) to these efforts in addressing lead contamination and exposure prevention. Relevant for global efforts, EPA is committing to support completion for one or more tools on best practices for lead pollution reduction in low- and middle-income countries to encourage

global reductions in lead use and in import of lead-containing products into the US as well as continuing to recruit EPA technical authors and reviewers for additional tools and consults.

The [President's Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children](#) also published an interim [Federal Lead Resource Guide](#). The guide is a collection of select federal lead-related resources,

programs and assistance opportunities for use by the public, including information on awareness-raising, financial opportunities, regulatory resources, technical information, toolkits and guidance documents.

Update from the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat



Notifications of final regulatory action to severely restrict lead chromates submitted by Cameroon and Morocco were published in the Rotterdam Convention [database of notifications](#) and the [PIC Circular](#) in December 2024. A notification of final regulatory action (FRA) severely restricting a broad range of lead compounds, including pigments (such as lead chromates), corrosion inhibitors, and lead soaps submitted by Switzerland was also published in June 2025. A further notification of FRA to severely restrict lead chromates submitted by Australia was published in December 2025.

As stipulated in Article 5 of the Rotterdam Convention, when the Secretariat has received at least one notification from each of two Prior Informed Consent (PIC) regions regarding a particular chemical that it has verified meets the requirements of Annex I, it forwards them to the Chemical Review Committee (CRC). The CRC reviews the information provided in such notifications and, in accordance with the criteria set out in Annex II, recommends to the Conference of the Parties whether the chemical in question should be made subject to the PIC procedure and listed in Annex III.

The Secretariat has forwarded the notifications of FRA related to lead chromates, as well as related to other chemicals, to the Committee. These are expected to be considered at its [twenty-second meeting](#), tentatively scheduled to take place in Rome from 15 to 18 September 2026.

The criteria for listing banned or severely restricted chemicals in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention, set out in Annex II, includes consideration of whether there is evidence of ongoing international trade in the chemicals under review. Parties and other interested observers have been [invited](#) to submit **by 20 June 2026** information on ongoing international trade for lead chromates, among other candidate chemicals.

Updates from IPEN



IPEN is currently rolling out projects with partner NGOs in more than 20 countries to document national trade data on lead chromates and raise awareness among stakeholders on the importance of regulating its international trade through the Rotterdam Convention. In the past three years, IPEN and its local partners in four countries have actively campaigned to encourage their governments to take action which led to the submitted lead chromate notifications by Cameroon, Morocco, Switzerland, and Australia.



Progress Towards Laws: Country updates

ANGOLA Following completion of a second paint study, INGA (Ministry of Environment) and LEEP convened a high-level workshop to present the findings and advance dialogue on eliminating lead paint in Angola. The event brought together over 80 participants, including Secretary of State for Environment and other

representatives from the Ministry of Environment, provincial environmental directors, civil society organizations, and major paint manufacturers. The workshop was also covered by national television and featured on the Ministry of Environment's website, helping elevate the issue publicly. Importantly, the Judicial Cabinet publicly confirmed during the workshop that the draft Presidential decree is expected to soon be ready for submission to the Council of Ministers for approval. In the days following the workshop, INGA and Ministry representatives reinforced the message through radio and television appearances, sustaining media momentum and public visibility of the issue.

CAMBODIA With financial support from the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, UNEP supported Cambodia in conducting a market survey on the presence of lead in selected products (e.g. paints and toys), **developing and adopting a national regulation on lead in paint** based on the UNEP Model Law and Guidance for Regulating Lead Paint, raising public awareness of the impacts of lead on human health and the environment, and preparing a baseline assessment of lead-acid battery management.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO In January, the DRC government's National Standardization Committee officially adopted nine East African Community (EAC) standards on paints including a 90-ppm lead limit, along with ten complementary ISO standards, marking a major step toward eliminating hazardous lead paint from the Congolese market. The Office Congolais de Contrôle (OCC), the government conformity assessment agency under the Ministry of Commerce, and LEEP [conducted a paint study in 2025](#) that found that 55 percent of samples tested contained unsafe levels of lead. As a result of these findings, the DRC took decisive regulatory action. The next critical step is for the government to publish these standards in the official gazette and raise awareness among the relevant stakeholders. Following the release of the paint study results, the OCC took proactive steps to engage the paint industry, including inviting participation in reformulation efforts and for manufacturers to take advantage of LEEP's technical support to transition toward compliant, lead-free paint production.

EURASIAN ECONOMIC UNION (EEU) In December 2025, the Board of the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) has approved [Disposition No. 188](#) "On the Technical Regulations of the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) on the Safety of Paints and Varnishes." The [Technical Regulation](#) will enter into force starting January 1, 2028, and will set a lead limit of 5,000 ppm in all paints. This lead limit will be reduced to 500 ppm by January 1, 2031, and will finally be set at 90 ppm by January 1, 2033. EEU member countries include Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, and Russia.

MALI The National Directorate of Sanitation and the Control of Pollution and Nuisances (DNACPN) within the Ministry of Environment in collaboration with LEEP recently held a workshop and conducted a paint study in Bamako to determine whether and to what extent lead paint is available on the market (results pending). More than 40 participants attended the kick-off workshop, including the Secretary General of the Ministry of Environment, a Technical Advisor representing the Minister, manufacturers, the Chamber of Commerce, the Construction Enterprises Association, the Consumers' Association of Mali and civil society organisations working on environmental and health issues. Discussions were highly engaging, with stakeholders agreeing that working towards regulation would be critical, should the study confirm the presence of lead paint on the Malian market. The Director of DNACPN publicly reinforced this commitment during a national television interview.

MEXICO In January 2026, the [Draft Mexican Official Standard](#) (PROY-NOM-003-SSA1-2025) on the "Maximum Permissible Limit for the Total Lead Content and Sanitary Requirements for the Labeling of Paints and Related Products" was published in the Official Gazette of COFEPRIS for public comments within 60 days. COFEPRIS, a regulatory agency under the Ministry of Health, led a Technical Working Group (TWG) responsible for drafting the lead paint standard, which sets a total lead limit of 90 ppm in all paints and related products. The standard is expected to be finalized and adopted within the year.

SOUTH AFRICA The South African Paint Manufacturing Association (SAPMA), in collaboration with the Lead Exposure Elimination Project (LEEP), has prioritised industry education and compliance through the "Lead with LEEP" initiative. SAPMA and LEEP are working together to simplify and communicate key information in a practical way. This includes developing clear visual infographics to explain regulatory requirements, creating FAQs to address common areas of confusion, and sharing targeted digital content with industry members. Centralised resources are available on the SAPMA website to ensure that information is easily accessible when needed.



In the News: Lead Paint and Other Sources of Lead Exposure

These articles do not necessarily reflect the views or work of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint.

Information and Action to Address Health Effects of Lead Exposure

[*The Long-Lasting Effects of Early Childhood Lead Exposure: Evidence from Piston-Engine Aircraft Emissions.*](#)

Duong and Zhong. November 2024

[*Beyond mining: A pioneer attempt to assessing lead exposure risks in Nigeria.*](#)

Fabolude et al. Environmental Impact Assessment Review. July 2025

[*APEC calls for roadmap to eliminate lead from new water systems in Asia-Pacific Region.*](#)

KTLA. July 2025

[*Evaluation of Lead Concentrations in Blood Samples from Donors in a Tertiary Hospital Located in the Niger Delta, Nigeria.*](#)

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[*Preventing lead \(Pb\) contamination in rural community water systems in LMICs through analytical screening, policy and standards enforcement, and supply chain interventions.*](#)

Roy et al. Groundwater for Sustainable Development. November 2025

[*A simple kit to detect extractable lead concentrations in soil.*](#)

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[*NESREA seals 29 facilities in S'West for environmental pollution.*](#)

PUNCH. September 2025

[*Buffalo forfeits more than \\$1 million in federal lead funds.*](#)

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[*Toward a Lead-Free Future: Mobilizing to End Childhood Lead Exposure.*](#)

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[*Toward a Lead-Free Future: The Fase for Action Now.*](#)

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[*Lead batteries are poisoning millions of children. Here are 3 proven ways to stop it.*](#)

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[*Elevated blood lead levels and associated risk factors among school children in a non-industrialized city in Indonesia.*](#)

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[*The Impact of Lead Water Pollution on Birth Outcomes: A Natural Experiment in Scotland.*](#)

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[Candidate biomarkers of lead-exposed municipal water biofilms provide insights into lead monitoring potential.](#)

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[Impact of Occupational Lead Exposure on Lung Cancer Risk in Korean Male Workers: A Retrospective Cohort Study.](#)

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[B-274 Leveraging Dried Blood Spots \(DBS\) for Universal Lead Screening in Children Free.](#)

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[Protein Powders and Shakes Contain High Levels of Lead.](#)

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[Knowledge on lead exposure among Paint workers in Kirtipur Municipality, Nepal.](#)

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[The strange role of lead poisoning in humanity's success.](#)

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[Prenatal and Early Postnatal Lead Exposure, Sensitive Periods, and Later Adult Mental Health.](#)

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[Togo steps up fight against lead in consumer products.](#)

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[Life in the World's Most Polluted Town.](#)

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[Untold: Toxic Legacy.](#)

Laura Hughes. *Financial Times*. October 2025

[Heavy metal contamination in urban agriculture: evidence from Nairobi.](#)

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[UK reconsiders screening for lead poisoning in children.](#)

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[Millions of Children Need Life-Changing Lead Poisoning Medicine. Why Isn't It Affordable?](#) Theo Mitchell and Rachel

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[Recycling Lead for U.S. Car Batteries Is Poisoning People.](#)

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[Methylation-enriched Telomere Length Mediates the Association between Lead Exposure and Cognitive Function in an Aging Population.](#)

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[How to stop the flow of lead in new and existing drinking water systems.](#)

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[Association between potential lead exposure assessed using a screening questionnaire and aggressive behaviour among adolescents in Jakarta, Indonesia: a cross-sectional study.](#)

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[2025 in Review: Advancing Lead Elimination at Scale.](#)

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[Schoolchildren's exposure to potentially toxic metals/metalloids and cognitive impairments in communities of the Brazilian Amazon new agricultural frontiers.](#)

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