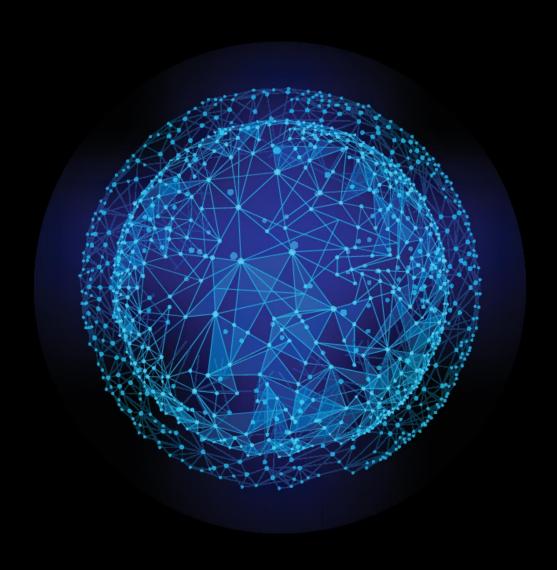
Newsletter Tax & Customs

February 2025





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Notification obligation under Global Minimum Tax regulations in Vietnam

- A Multinational Enterprise Group ("MNE Group") with more than one Constituent Entity ("CE") in Vietnam must submit a notification to appoint one of the CEs in Vietnam to take charge of additional Corporate Income Tax ("CIT") filing and payment for the Group within 30 days from the end of the fiscal year;
- If MNE Group fails to meet the above deadline, the Tax authority will appoint a CE to take responsibility for the tax filing and payment within 30 days from the deadline;
- Failure to comply with the above notification deadline would lead to the risk of being appointed with the Filing CE by the Tax authority based on available data of the Group's CEs in Vietnam. <u>Note</u>: According to the draft Decree, for enterprises subject to Qualified Domestic Top-up Tax (QDMTT) rule, the Tax authority will appoint the CE with the highest total asset value as stated in the latest financial statements as the Filing CE.

Key considerations for MNE groups

- Even if the guiding Decree has not been issued, the in-scope MNE Groups should still acknowledge the notification requirements as abovementioned, to have appropriate consultation with tax authorities to mitigate non-compliance risk;
- The MNE Groups with only one CE in Vietnam may still be required to submit this notification.

For Vietnamese MNE Groups subject to both **QDMTT** and Income Inclusion Rule, appointment of an appropriate CE for each rule should be considered thoughtfully.

(Resolution No 107/2023/QH15 dated 29/11/2023 issued by the National Assembly of Vietnam)





The General Department of Taxation's guidance on administrative penalties for violations related to taxes and invoices

1. Regarding the maximum penalty fines for administrative violations

Per Clause 2, Article 52 of the Law on Handling Administrative Violations, the authority to impose fines is determined based on the maximum amount provided in the penalty framework for each specific violation. The fine amount stated in the administrative sanction decision is the total of the specific fines for each violation and is not limited by the maximum fine specified in point c, point đ of Clause 1, Article 24 of the Law on Handling Administrative Violations 2012 (amended and supplemented in 2020).

2. Regarding the application of aggravating factors

Large-scale administrative violation: In case within a single administrative sanction proceeding, the taxpayer commits multiple invoice-related violations and is penalized separately for each violation, the aggravating circumstance of a "large-scale administrative violation" shall not be applied. However, if the taxpayer commits a single administrative violation related to invoices (with the number of violated invoices being 10 or more), the violation will be treated as one single offense and the aggravating circumstance of a "large-scale administrative violation" shall be applied.

Repeated administrative violations: In case where the taxpayer commits multiple identical administrative violations and is penalized separately for each violation, from the second violation onward, it shall be deemed that the taxpayer has committed an administrative violation with the aggravating factor of "repeated administrative violations" as prescribed in point b, Clause 1, Article 10 of the Law on Handling Administrative Violations 2012 (amended and supplemented in 2020).

(Official Letter No. 216/TCT-PC dated 15 January 2025 issued by the General Department of Taxation)





Corporate Income Tax

Guidance ruling

Application of CIT incentives for supporting industry products based on the issuance date of the incentive certification

The incentive certificate for the production of prioritized supporting industry products serves as the basis for applying CIT incentives under supporting industry criteria. The determination of the applicable period for CIT incentives for supporting industry products is based on the issuance date of the incentive certificate granted by the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

In cases where a project generates income from the production of supporting industry products and meets the conditions for CIT incentives under supporting industry criteria, it shall be entitled to CIT incentives for the income derived from the production of supporting industry products, as certified by the Ministry of Industry and Trade, for the remaining applicable period as stipulated by regulations.

(Official Letter No. 300/TCT-CS dated 17 January 2025 issued by the General Department of Taxation) Value-Added Tax ("VAT") and import duty re-collected under a Tax Assessment Decision are creditable and deductible for tax purpose

In cases where the company is subject to recollection of tax according to a Tax Assessment Decision made by the Customs authority without being penalized for tax fraud or tax evasion:

- For VAT: the full amount is creditable if it meets the conditions for VAT deduction and refund as prescribed by regulations.
- For import duty: the amount can be included in deductible expenses when calculating CIT taxable income if it meets the conditions prescribed by regulations.

(Official Letter No. 496/CTLAN-TTHT dated 10 February 2025 issued by the Long An Province Tax Department)

CIT incentives in cases of changing charter capital, project objectives without changes in total investment capital

In cases where a business is actively operating and there is a change in the business registration certificate or investment certificate, such as adding new business sectors, adding new products, or increasing the registered production volume, without increasing the investment capital, and if the change does not affect the project's eligibility for tax incentives under regulations, the enterprise shall:

- Continue to enjoy tax incentives for the remaining period; or
- Apply for tax incentives under the expanded investment category if the enterprises meet the eligibility conditions as stipulated by regulations.

(Official Letter No. 439/CTBGI-TTHT dated 24 January 2025 issued by the Bac Giang Province Tax Department)

Indirect Tax Guidance ruling

Export goods designated for delivery to Vietnamese enterprises through bonded warehouses are not subject to the 0% VAT rate

On 17 February 2025, the Ministry of Finance issued Official Letter No. 1872/BTC-TCT to the People's Committee of Dong Nai Province, providing the following opinion regarding the case where goods are sold by domestic enterprise to a foreign trader with presence in Vietnam and designated to transfer to a Vietnamese third-party via bonded warehouse.

Accordingly, this transaction does not meet the conditions of goods exported to overseas organizations or individuals and consumed outside of Vietnam, nor goods sold to organizations or individuals in the non-tariff area and consumed within the non-tariff area, so it is not considered an export transaction eligible for the 0% VAT rate.

(Official Letter No. 1872/BTC-TCT dated 17 February 2025, issued by the Ministry of Finance)

VAT on real estate transfer activities

In cases where the Company signs a contract to transfer part of a project to continue investing in infrastructure development and housing construction, this is considered real estate business activity, does not qualify as a transfer of an investment project for production and business purposes as guided in Clause 4, Article 5 of Circular No. 219/2013/TT-BTC dated 31 December 2013, by the Ministry of Finance. Therefore, the Company is required to declare and pay VAT at the rate of 10% as required by law.

(Official Letter No. 416/TCT-CS dated 23 January 2025 issued by the General Department of Taxation)





VAT on the transfer of factories between domestic enterprises and export processing enterprises

Regarding the transfer of factory buildings from a domestic enterprise to an export processing enterprise, if the transfer complies with land law regulations, the transferee meets the requirements for customs inspection and supervision in the non-tariff zone, and the transferred assets are not subject to customs procedures as required by customs law, the application of 0% tax rate is appropriate.

(Official Letter No. 370/TCT-CS dated 22 January 2025, issued by the General Department of Taxation)

Regarding VAT on temporary import for reexport for repairs to a customer

If the company temporarily re-imports part of the goods that were previously exported for repair and then re-exports them to the original customer, there is no need to adjust the revenue for the previous export period.

In cases where exported goods have received a tax refunded but are partially returned by the customer, the company must submit an additional declaration, return the refunded tax, and pay any late payment interest as required by regulations.

(Official Letter No. 415/TCT-CS dated 23 January 2025 issued by the General Department of Taxation)

Additional VAT Declaration

According to regulations, if the supplementary VAT declaration for the tax period of June 2023, made on 10 August 2023, only increases the creditable VAT for that period, then the taxpayer should report this information in item [38] "Adjustment for increasing the VAT deductible from previous periods" on the initial VAT declaration form for the tax period of July 2023 (as it is still within the VAT filling deadline for the tax period of July 2023).

(Official Letter No. 471/TCT-KK dated 05 February 2025 05/02/2025, issued by the General Department of Taxation)

The VAT rate for wires and cables for electrolysis

Items such as wires and cables for electrolysis are classified under group 27320 and are not subject to the reduced VAT rate of 8% from 10%, effective from 01 July 2023 to 31 December 2023.

(Official Letter No. 219/TCT-CS dated 15 January 2025 issued by the General Department of Taxation)



Personal Income Tax

Guidance ruling

Regarding the determination of the book value of capital contributions in a limited liability company for the purpose of Personal Income Tax ("PIT") calculation

The income subject to PIT from the inheritance of capital contributions in a Limited Liability Company (with two or more members) is determined based on the book value of the capital contribution as reflected in the company's balance sheet at the time of the most recent balance sheet preparation, in accordance with accounting laws, prior to the registration of the capital ownership rights.

The book value of the company's assets on the balance sheet is determined by the difference between the total assets and liabilities, calculated by subtracting the liability item from the asset item on the balance sheet.

(Official Letter No. 194/TCT-DNNCN dated 14/01/2025, issued by the General Department of Taxation)

Determining the taxable income for PIT on real estate transfers

In cases where a household or individual transfers the land use rights (without any assets attached to the land), the taxable income subject to PIT is determined based on the land price specified in the land price table.

In cases where a household or individual transfers real estate (land use rights and assets attached to the land), the taxable income subject to PIT is determined based on the transfer price for each transaction, in accordance with the current PIT laws and regulations. (PIT Law, Decree No. 12/2015/ND-CP, Circular No. 92/2015/TT-BTC).

(Official Letter No. 299/TCT-DNNCN dated 17 January 2025, issued by the General Department of Taxation)

Tax withholding when signing service contracts with individuals

If a company signs a service contract (such as sales agency contracts, cooperation contracts, service contracts with telecommunications companies, or goods delivery contracts) with an individual who is not registered for business, the individual's income is classified as income from wages or salaries, and the company is responsible for withholding, declaring, and remitting the tax.

If an individual signs a service contract (such as the contracts mentioned above) with a company that meets the conditions of being a trader (an individual engaged in commercial activities independently, regularly, and with a business registration as a household business in the same industry as the service contract), the income of this individual is classified as income from business activities.

(Official Letter No. 418/TCT-DNNCN dated 23 January 2025, issued by the General Department of Taxation)

Regarding temporary suspension of exit due to failure to fulfill tax obligations

If there is sufficient basis to determine that an individual is no longer the legal representative of an enterprise that is subject to enforcement of an administrative decision on tax management and has no obligation for the enterprise's tax debt, that individual is not subject to temporary exit suspension under Clause 7, Article 124 of the Law on Tax Administration No. 38/2019/QH14 and Clause 5, Article 36 of the Law on Exit and Entry of Vietnamese Citizens No. 49/2019/QH14.

(Official Letter No. 534/TCT-QLN dated 11 February 2025 issued by the General Department of Taxation)



Personal Income Tax

Resolution

Regarding the visa exemption under the Tourism Development Stimulus Program for 2025 for citizens of the following countries: The Republic of Poland, the Czech Republic, and the Swiss Confederation

Visa exemption for citizens of the following countries: the Republic of Poland, the Czech Republic, and the Swiss Confederation, with a temporary stay of 45 days from the date of entry for tourism purposes under programs organized by Vietnamese international travel businesses, regardless of passport type, provided that all entry requirements under Vietnamese law are met.

The visa exemption policy for citizens of Poland, the Czech Republic, and Switzerland entering Vietnam will be implemented from 01 March 2025 to 31 December 2025, as part of the Tourism Development Stimulus Program for 2025.

(Resolution No. 11/NQ-CP dated 15 January 2025, issued by the Government)





Foreign Contractor Withholding Tax

Guidance ruling

Foreign Contractor Withholding Tax on goods supply contracts between a Vietnamese party and a foreign contractor

If a goods supply contract is signed between a Vietnamese party and a foreign contractor under the delivery terms DDU or DAP, where the seller is responsible for transporting the goods to the delivery location designated by the buyer, and the contract does not include any services provided in Vietnam—such as installation, commissioning, warranty, maintenance, etc. (including free accompanying services)—the goods are subject only to VAT at the importation stage.

Additionally, the applicable CIT rate is 1% calculated on the taxable revenue.

(Official Letter No. 302/TCT-CS dated 17 January 2025 issued by the General Department of Taxation)





Decree No. 20/2025/ND-CP amends and supplements Decree No. 132/2020/ND-CP guiding tax compliance for enterprises having related party transactions

On 10 February 2025, the Government issued Decree No. 20/2025/ND-CP ("Decree 20") amending Decree No. 132/2020/ND-CP dated 05 November 2020 ("Decree 132") guiding tax compliance for enterprises having related party transactions. Accordingly, Decree 20 revises and amends the following notable points:

- 1. Clause 1, Article 1, Decree 20:
- Revises, supplements point d, Clause 2, Article 5, Decree 132 regarding relationship type d related to credit institution: removes the classification of related parties in situations where enterprises receive substantial guarantees or loans from credit institutions without any capital contribution or management or control relationship;
- Revises, supplements point k, Clause 2, Article 5, Decree 132 regarding other relationship - type k (including independent branches declaring and paying CIT);
- Supplements point m, Clause 2, Article 5, Decree 132 regarding relationship of credit institutions with subsidiaries, or with controlling companies, or with associated companies upon Law on credit institution.

2. Article 3, Decree 20 stipulates non-deductible interest expenses and not yet carried forward in the taxable period from 2020 to 2023

In particular, in case an enterprise does not engage in related party transactions during the 2024 taxable period, non-deductible interest expenses and not yet carried forward to following taxable period until end of 2023 taxable period is allocated evenly and carried forward to remaining tax period in accordance with regulation under Decree 132.

In case an enterprise engage in related party transaction in 2024 taxable period, the non deductible loan interest expenses and not yet carried forward to following tax periods follow regulation under point b, Clause 3, Article 16, Decree 132 (able to carry forward if total deductible loan interest expenses of the following taxable period is less than 30% of net profit generated from business activities within the taxable period plus loan interest costs arising after deducting deposit interests and lending interests arising within the taxable period plus depreciation/amortization expenses arising within that period of a taxpayer.

- 3. Article 2, Decree 20 replaces Appendix I -Information on related party relationships and related party transactions issued with Decree 132 with Appendix I - Information on related party relationships and related party transactions issued with this Decree.
- 4. Clause 2, Article 1, Decree 20 revises, supplements Clause 2, Article 21, Decree 132 stipulating the State Bank's responsibility in coordinating to provide relevant information of related person of credit institutions for tax management purposes for enterprises having related party transactions with credit institutions upon Tax authority's request.
- 5. Decree 20 will take effect from 27 March 2025 and apply from 2024 CIT period onward.

(Decree No. 20/2025/ND-CP dated 10 February 2025 issued by the Government of Vietnam)



Updates regarding Vietnam's signing on the MCAA CbCR

An OECD update to the list of signatories of the Multilateral Competent Authority Agreement on the Exchange of Country-by-Country Reports (MCAA CbCR) dated 10 February 2025 indicates that Vietnam signed the agreement on 03 January 2025.

As per OECD latest update, a total of 107 jurisdictions are now signatories to the MCAA CbCR. Accordingly, Vietnam has not yet committed to a specific timeline for executing an automatic exchange of information (AEOI) under MCAA.

This key milestone is considered as a step forward from Vietnam's signing on the Multilateral Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters (MAAC – the Convention) on 22 March 2023. This has shown Vietnam's commitment with international efforts towards greater tax co-operation and exchange of information, prevention of tax evasion and other non-compliance tax matters.





Licensing procedures

Guidance ruling

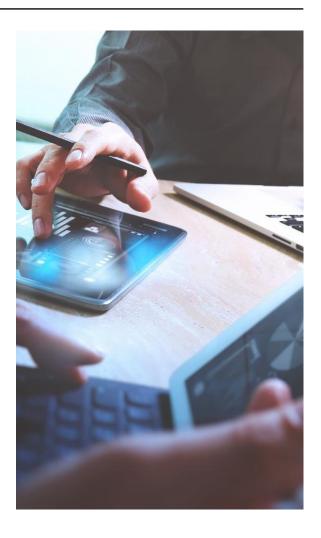
Implementing online submission of investment monitoring and assessment report at Hanoi Department of Planning and Investment

Implementing the direction of Hanoi People's Committee on promoting the restructuring of administrative procedures as well as the application of digital transformation in the implementation of monitoring and assessment report of investment projects, Hanoi Department of Planning and Investment has issued a notice to guide foreign-invested enterprises:

- To register an account for updating data on the Hanoi's Investment Project Information Management System according to the form enclosed with the notice to the email address: kythuat_sokhdt@hanoi.gov.vn for the DPI to create an account, each entity registers 01 account for declaration.
- To access the Hanoi's Investment Project Information Management System at https://qlda.hanoi.gov.vn, to update and attach information on the monitoring and assessment of investment project implementation according to regulations.

In case of failure to submit reports to the system on time or the report does not ensure sufficient form and information, the Department of Planning and Investment shall compile a list and report to the City People's Committee and relevant units as regulated.

(Notice on the online submission of Investment Monitoring and Assessment report at Hanoi Department of Planning and Investment (Applicable to foreign-invested enterprises) dated 23 January 2025)





Licensing procedures

Legal Document

Detailed regulations on special investment procedures for investment projects in the high-tech sector

On 10 February 2025, the Government issued Decree no. 19/2025/ND-CP guiding the Law on Investment on special investment procedures, which is prescribed in Article 36a of the Law on Investment, as supplemented by Article 2.8 of Law no. 57/2024/QH15 ("Decree 19").

The projects which are (i) Investing in construction of innovation centers, research and development (R&D) centers; investing in the field of semiconductor integrated circuit industry, technology for designing and manufacturing components, integrated electronic circuits (IC), Printed electronics (PE), chips, semiconductor materials or (ii) Investing in the field of high technology prioritized for development investment, production of products on the list of high-tech products encouraged for development according to the decision of The Prime Minister and located in industrial parks, export processing zones, hi-tech parks, concentrated information technology parks, free trade zones and functional zones in economic zones, shall be eligible to apply the special investment procedures under the provisions of Decree 19.

Several notable contents of Decree 19 are as follows:

- Detailing the contents of the investor's commitments in the application dossier for special investment procedures;
- The content of the investor's commitments will be expressly recorded in the investment registration certificate upon its issuance;
- Regarding procedures for ensuring project implementation, the Investor is entitled to a refund of 50% of the deposit or a 50% reduction in the deposit guarantee obligation at the time of submitting the construction commencement notification to the management board.
- Provision regarding to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) obligation.

(Decree No. 19/2025/NĐ-CP dated 10 February 2025 issued by the Government of Vietnam and is effective from its issuance date)





Update on guidance for Vietnam's preferential export tariff schedule, special preferential import tariff schedule to implement the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) for the period 2022 – 2027

On 27 December 2024, the Government issued Decree No. 13/2025/ND-CP ("**Decree 13**") amending and supplementing Decree No. 115/2022/ND-CP on Vietnam's preferential export tariff schedule, special preferential export tariff schedule to implement the CPTPP Agreement for the period from 2022 to 2027, specifically:

- Supplementing Vietnam's preferential export tariff schedule, and special preferential export tariff schedule applicable to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (including 3 territories: the Bailiwick of Guernsey, the Bailiwick of Jersey and Isle of Man);
- Supplementing a number of territories and countries permitted to apply the special preferential import tariff schedule for goods imported to Vietnam under CPTPP, including: Malaysia, Republic of Chile, Brunei Darussalam, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (including 3 territories: the Bailiwick of Guernsey, the Bailiwick of Jersey and Isle of Man).

This Decree takes effect from the date of issuance. For customs declarations of goods imported and exported between Vietnam and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (including 3 territories: the Bailiwick of Guernsey, the Bailiwick of Jersey and Isle of Man) from 15 December 2024 to the effective date of this Decree, if they satisfy the requirements for applying preferential export tariff or special preferential import tariff while a higher tariff rate has been applied, the Customs authority shall process the overpaid duty in accordance with the Law on Tax Administration.

Accordingly, on 24 January 2025, the Import - Export Duty Department of the General Department of Customs issued Official Letter No. 144/TXNK-PL guiding the implementation of Decree 13 as follows:

- Tariff Code B21 shall be applied to imported goods.
- Tariff Code B22 shall be applied to in-quota used automobiles.

(Decree No. 13/2025/NĐ-CP dated 21 January 2025 issued by the Government and Official Letter No. 144/TXNK-PL dated 24 January 2025, issued by the Import-Export Duty Department of the General Department of Customs)



Official application of anti-dumping measures on prestressed steel cables from Malaysia, Thailand, and the People's Republic of China

On 14 January 2025, the Minister of Industry and Trade issued Decision No. 143/QĐ-BCT ("**Decision 143**") on officially applying anti-dumping duties on prestressed steel cables classified under HS codes 7312.10.91 and 7312.10.99 originating from Malaysia, Thailand, and the People's Republic of China.

The official **anti-dumping** duties shall take effect from 29 January 2025 and be applied in 05 (five) years (unless it is modified or extended according to the Decision of the Minister of Industry and Trade).

Accordingly, the General Department of Customs issued Official Letter No. 438/TCHQ-TXNK dated 23 January 2025 specifically guiding the declaration of anti-dumping duty on the import customs declaration.

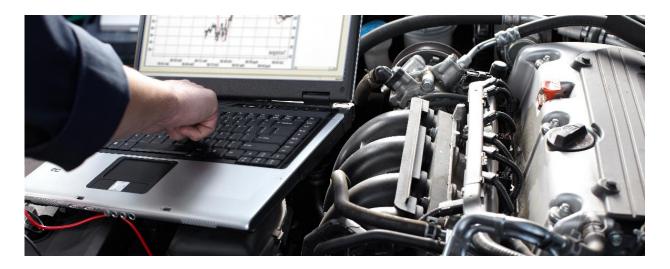
(Decision No. 143/QĐ-BCT dated 14 January 2025, issued by the Minister of Industry and Trade.)

The duty incentive program for parts and components used in the manufacturing and processing (assembly) of supporting industrial products for the automobile industry is extended until 31 December 2027

On 10 February 2025, the Government issued Decree No. 21/2025/ND-CP ("**Decree 21**") amending and supplementing Article 9 of Decree No. 26/2023/ND-CP regarding the extension of the duty incentive program for parts and components used in the manufacturing and processing (assembly) of supporting industrial products for the automobile industry until 31 December 2027.

The Decree takes effect from the date of issuance. Enterprises that have already registered for the incentive program before the effective date of Decree 21 are not required for registration again.

(Decree No. 21/2025/ND-CP dated 10 February 2025, issued by the Government)





Guidance for declaring the description of goods on the Certificate of Origin (C/O) form E for imported goods

With respect to the declaration of the goods description on C/O form E for imported goods, pursuant to the provisions of Box 7 of C/O form E as well as Section 5 of the back of C/O form E (Overleaf Notes), the description of goods on the C/O form E must be declared in detail and sufficient manner so that the Customs authority of the importing member country is able to identify the goods.

(Official Letter No. 61/XNK-XXHH dated 23 January 2025, issued by the Agency of Foreign Trade under Ministry of Industry and Trade)

Classification of the HS code for printed self-adhesive plastic labels

Regarding the classification of products that are printed self-adhesive plastic labels, the General Department of Customs issued Official Letter No. 624/TCHQ-TNXK dated 11 February 2025 providing guidance for consistent application across Provincial and Municipal Customs Departments as follows:

Products that consist of flat, self-adhesive plastic pieces made from poly (ethylene terephthalate) condensation polymer, in an oval or trapezoidal shape, printed with images or text, and attached consecutively on a protective plastic strip of poly (ethylene terephthalate) in roll form for use as labels—are classified as essentially flat, self-adhesive, plastic, and printed. Accordingly, they fall under the classification of heading 39.19.

(Official Letter No. 624/TCHQ-TXNK dated 11 February 2025 issued by the General Department of Customs)



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