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EMN European Migration Network

Ad-Hoc Query

2024.38 Integration requirements prior to admission of third-country nationals for the purpose of residence

European Migration Network
Ad-hoc query

AD-HOC QUERY ON 2024.38 INTEGRATION REQUIREMENTS PRIOR TO ADMISSION OF THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS FOR THE PURPOSE OF RESIDENCE

REQUESTED BY EMN NCP NETHERLANDS ON 27 JUNE 2024

Responses from: EMN NCP Austria, EMN NCP Belgium, EMN NCP Bulgaria, EMN NCP Croatia, EMN NCP Cyprus, EMN NCP Czech Republic, EMN NCP Estonia, EMN NCP Finland, EMN NCP France, EMN NCP Germany, EMN NCP Greece, EMN NCP Hungary, EMN NCP Ireland, EMN NCP Latvia, EMN NCP Lithuania, EMN NCP Luxembourg, EMN NCP Netherlands, EMN NCP Poland, EMN NCP Portugal, EMN NCP Serbia, EMN NCP Slovakia, EMN NCP Slovenia, EMN NCP Spain, EMN NCP Sweden **(24 in total)**

Disclaimer: The following responses have been provided primarily for the purpose of information exchange among EMN National Contact Points (NCPs) in the framework of the EMN. The contributing EMN NCPs have provided, to the best of their knowledge, information that is up-to-date, objective and reliable. Note, however, that the information provided does not necessarily represent the official policy of an EMN Country.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In the Netherlands third country nationals (TCN's) who want to apply for family reunification will need a provisional residence permit (mvv) and/or a residence permit. The provisional residence permit (mvv) is a Schengen D-visa for stays of more than three months in the Netherlands. Some countries are exempted from the provisional residence permit: US, UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, Monaco, Vatican, Switzerland, Norway and Iceland.
In order to apply for a provisional residence permit (Schengen D-visa) for family reunification the third-country national family member must pass a civic integration exam. This exam contains basic questions about Dutch society and a language test at A2 level. An applicant with the nationality of a country that is exempted from the provisional residence permit (US, UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, Monaco, Vatican, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland) is also exempted from the requirement to pass the civic integration exam abroad. If the sponsor (the family member residing in the Netherlands) has a residence permit for a temporary residence purpose such as study or labour, the applicant is also exempted from this requirement.
At this moment there is a case against this exam before the highest administrative court; the complaint is that the civic integration exam abroad is discriminatory by making a non-justified difference between nationalities. In order to inform the court, the Netherlands is looking for information from other Member States which could have a civic integration exam abroad or other integration requirements prior to admission for the purpose of residence.

Ad-Hoc Query on 2024.38 Integration requirements prior to admission of third-country nationals for the purpose of residence

WE WOULD LIKE TO ASK THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

We would very much appreciate your responses by **25 July 2024**.

1. Question 1: Does your (Member) State have an integration requirement prior to admission for a residence purpose? Yes/No
   - Yes
   - No

2. Question 2: If you answer YES to Q1, what does the integration requirement prior to admission for a residence purpose consist of?

3. Question 3: If you answer YES to Q1, for which purposes of stay does this integration requirement prior to admission apply?

4. Question 4: If you answer YES to Q1, does your Member State, exempt certain nationalities from this integration requirement prior to admission? YES/NO. If you answer YES, please indicate which are these nationalities?

RESPONSES

		Wider Dissemination?	
	EMN NCP Austria	Yes	1. Question 1: Does your (Member) State have an integration requirement prior to admission for a residence purpose? Yes/No Yes 2. Question 2: If you answer YES to Q1, what does the integration requirement prior to admission for a residence purpose consist of? In general, third-country nationals are required to provide proof of German language skills when submitting an initial application for certain residence titles (Art. 21a para. 1 Settlement and Residence Act). This proof must be provided by means of a generally recognized language diploma from an institution specified by regulation, in which the institution confirms in writing that the third-country national has at least elementary German language skills at

			the most basic level (A1 CERF). The language diploma must not be older than one year at the time of submission. There are some exceptions to this rule, specifically: Persons who have not yet reached the age of 14 at the time of application;Persons who, due to their physical or mental state of health, cannot reasonably be expected to provide such proof. The person concerned must provide evidence of this in the form of a medical certificate from an official doctor or another doctor appointed by the Austrian representation authorities (embassy or consulate);Family members of holders of the "Red-White-Red Card" residence permit for "Very Highly Qualified Workers", the "EU Blue Card" residence permit or the "Settlement Permit - Researcher";Family members of holders of the residence title "Permanent Residence - EU" if the sponsor originally held a "Red-White-Red Card", an "EU Blue Card" or a "Settlement Permit - Researcher";Family members of persons entitled to asylum;Persons who declare in writing that their stay should not exceed 24 months within 3 years and who irrevocably waive the right to submit a further extension application after the first extension application.(https://www.migration.gv.at/de/formen-der-zuwanderung/dauerhafte-zuwanderung/familienzusammenfuehrung) 3. Question 3: If you answer YES to Q1, for which purposes of stay does this integration requirement prior to admission apply? The rule described under Q2 applies to the granting of certain residence titles and settlement permits (Art. 21a para. 1 Settlement and Residence Act), including those residence titles and settlement permits that are granted for family reunification. 4. Question 4: If you answer YES to Q1, does your Member State, exempt certain nationalities from this integration requirement prior to admission? YES/NO. If you answer YES, please indicate which are these nationalities? No.
	EMN NCP Belgium	Yes	1. Question 1: Does your (Member) State have an integration requirement prior to admission for a residence purpose? Yes/No No 2. Question 2: If you answer YES to Q1, what does the integration requirement prior to admission for a residence

			purpose consist of? N/A 3. Question 3: If you answer YES to Q1, for which purposes of stay does this integration requirement prior to admission apply? N/A 4. Question 4: If you answer YES to Q1, does your Member State, exempt certain nationalities from this integration requirement prior to admission? YES/NO. If you answer YES, please indicate which are these nationalities? N/A
	EMN NCP Bulgaria	Yes	1. Question 1: Does your (Member) State have an integration requirement prior to admission for a residence purpose? Yes/No No 2. Question 2: If you answer YES to Q1, what does the integration requirement prior to admission for a residence purpose consist of? N/A 3. Question 3: If you answer YES to Q1, for which purposes of stay does this integration requirement prior to admission apply? N/A 4. Question 4: If you answer YES to Q1, does your Member State, exempt certain nationalities from this integration requirement prior to admission? YES/NO. If you answer YES, please indicate which are these nationalities?

			N/A
	EMN NCP Croatia	Yes	1. Question 1: Does your (Member) State have an integration requirement prior to admission for a residence purpose? Yes/No No 2. Question 2: If you answer YES to Q1, what does the integration requirement prior to admission for a residence purpose consist of? n/a 3. Question 3: If you answer YES to Q1, for which purposes of stay does this integration requirement prior to admission apply? n/a 4. Question 4: If you answer YES to Q1, does your Member State, exempt certain nationalities from this integration requirement prior to admission? YES/NO. If you answer YES, please indicate which are these nationalities? n/a
	EMN NCP Cyprus	Yes	1. Question 1: Does your (Member) State have an integration requirement prior to admission for a residence purpose? Yes/No Yes 2. Question 2: If you answer YES to Q1, what does the integration requirement prior to admission for a residence purpose consist of? The TCN must submit sufficient documents certifying that he /she has knowledge of the Greek or English Language.

			3. Question 3: If you answer YES to Q1, for which purposes of stay does this integration requirement prior to admission apply? The TCN will be granted an entry permit for work purposes, therefore he/she must be in the position to communicate either in Greek or in English with the employer or the other colleagues. 4. Question 4: If you answer YES to Q1, does your Member State, exempt certain nationalities from this integration requirement prior to admission? YES/NO. If you answer YES, please indicate which are these nationalities? Yes, TCNs whose mother tongue is the English language are exempted from this integration requirement prior to admission (eg. USA, Australia, GB, Canada)
	EMN NCP Czech Republic	Yes	1. Question 1: Does your (Member) State have an integration requirement prior to admission for a residence purpose? Yes/No No 2. Question 2: If you answer YES to Q1, what does the integration requirement prior to admission for a residence purpose consist of? N/A 3. Question 3: If you answer YES to Q1, for which purposes of stay does this integration requirement prior to admission apply? N/A 4. Question 4: If you answer YES to Q1, does your Member State, exempt certain nationalities from this integration requirement prior to admission? YES/NO. If you answer YES, please indicate which are these nationalities? N/A

	EMN NCP Estonia	Yes	1. Question 1: Does your (Member) State have an integration requirement prior to admission for a residence purpose? Yes/No No 2. Question 2: If you answer YES to Q1, what does the integration requirement prior to admission for a residence purpose consist of? N/A 3. Question 3: If you answer YES to Q1, for which purposes of stay does this integration requirement prior to admission apply? N/A 4. Question 4: If you answer YES to Q1, does your Member State, exempt certain nationalities from this integration requirement prior to admission? YES/NO. If you answer YES, please indicate which are these nationalities? N/A
	EMN NCP Finland	Yes	1. Question 1: Does your (Member) State have an integration requirement prior to admission for a residence purpose? Yes/No No 2. Question 2: If you answer YES to Q1, what does the integration requirement prior to admission for a residence purpose consist of? N/A 3. Question 3: If you answer YES to Q1, for which purposes of stay does this integration requirement prior to

			admission apply? N/A 4. Question 4: If you answer YES to Q1, does your Member State, exempt certain nationalities from this integration requirement prior to admission? YES/NO. If you answer YES, please indicate which are these nationalities? N/A
	EMN NCP France	Yes	1. Question 1: Does your (Member) State have an integration requirement prior to admission for a residence purpose? Yes/No No 2. Question 2: If you answer YES to Q1, what does the integration requirement prior to admission for a residence purpose consist of? However, for the issuance of a long-stay visa and/or a first residence permit bearing the words: “student” or “mobility program student”, a registration certificate produced by the establishment or pre-registration certificate is required. To be accepted into a higher education establishment, the level B2 in French is required in most establishments. For human sciences, a C1 level is strongly recommended. Some establishments may request a higher level. That minimum level requirement is not justifying the integration of the applicant as such but rather ensures that the student will be able to follow the courses in French. 3. Question 3: If you answer YES to Q1, for which purposes of stay does this integration requirement prior to admission apply? N/A 4. Question 4: If you answer YES to Q1, does your Member State, exempt certain nationalities from this integration requirement prior to admission? YES/NO. If you answer YES, please indicate which are these nationalities?

			N/A
	EMN NCP Germany	Yes	1. Question 1: Does your (Member) State have an integration requirement prior to admission for a residence purpose? Yes/No Yes 2. Question 2: If you answer YES to Q1, what does the integration requirement prior to admission for a residence purpose consist of? Depending on the specific type of residence permit, it may be necessary to provide proof of German language skills before admission. 3. Question 3: If you answer YES to Q1, for which purposes of stay does this integration requirement prior to admission apply? There is a requirement to prove knowledge of the sufficient German language before being granted a residence permit for certain purposes: Education: -A residence title for the purpose of (obtaining) a (quality) professional qualification requires sufficient knowledge of German (B1 level CEFR). -A residence title for the purpose of (pursuing) full-time studies at a university requires knowledge of the language required for the specific course. -A residence permit for the purpose of recognizing professional qualifications acquired abroad requires at least an elementary knowledge of German (A2 level CEFR), depending on the specific circumstances. Economic activity: -For an Opportunity Card (a residence permit for the purpose of seeking employment), either a basic knowledge of German (A1 level CEFR) or, alternatively, English (B2 level CEFR) is required. Family reunification: -The spouse of a foreigner or a German citizen must be able to communicate in German on at least a basic level (equivalent to level A1 CEFR) in order to be granted a visa/residence permit for the subsequent immigration of the spouse. Exceptions to this requirement apply, for example, to skilled workers and Blue Card holders.

			-A minor, unmarried child of a foreigner over the age of 16 must demonstrate advanced knowledge of the German language (equivalent to C1 CEFR) if he or she is not moving to Germany with his or her parents or the parent who has sole care and custody of the child. 4. Question 4: If you answer YES to Q1, does your Member State, exempt certain nationalities from this integration requirement prior to admission? YES/NO. If you answer YES, please indicate which are these nationalities? Yes. If the foreigner has the nationality of Australia, Israel, Japan, Canada, South Korea, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, the United States, Andorra, Brazil, El Salvador, Honduras, Monaco or San Marino, their spouse is exempt from the language requirement.
	EMN NCP Greece	Yes	1. Question 1: Does your (Member) State have an integration requirement prior to admission for a residence purpose? Yes/No No 2. Question 2: If you answer YES to Q1, what does the integration requirement prior to admission for a residence purpose consist of? - 3. Question 3: If you answer YES to Q1, for which purposes of stay does this integration requirement prior to admission apply? - 4. Question 4: If you answer YES to Q1, does your Member State, exempt certain nationalities from this integration requirement prior to admission? YES/NO. If you answer YES, please indicate which are these nationalities? -

	EMN NCP Hungary	Yes	1. Question 1: Does your (Member) State have an integration requirement prior to admission for a residence purpose? Yes/No No 2. Question 2: If you answer YES to Q1, what does the integration requirement prior to admission for a residence purpose consist of? N/A 3. Question 3: If you answer YES to Q1, for which purposes of stay does this integration requirement prior to admission apply? N/A 4. Question 4: If you answer YES to Q1, does your Member State, exempt certain nationalities from this integration requirement prior to admission? YES/NO. If you answer YES, please indicate which are these nationalities? N/A
	EMN NCP Ireland	Yes	1. Question 1: Does your (Member) State have an integration requirement prior to admission for a residence purpose? Yes/No No 2. Question 2: If you answer YES to Q1, what does the integration requirement prior to admission for a residence purpose consist of? N/A 3. Question 3: If you answer YES to Q1, for which purposes of stay does this integration requirement prior to

			admission apply? N/A 4. Question 4: If you answer YES to Q1, does your Member State, exempt certain nationalities from this integration requirement prior to admission? YES/NO. If you answer YES, please indicate which are these nationalities? N/A
	EMN NCP Latvia	Yes	1. Question 1: Does your (Member) State have an integration requirement prior to admission for a residence purpose? Yes/No No 2. Question 2: If you answer YES to Q1, what does the integration requirement prior to admission for a residence purpose consist of? N/a 3. Question 3: If you answer YES to Q1, for which purposes of stay does this integration requirement prior to admission apply? N/a 4. Question 4: If you answer YES to Q1, does your Member State, exempt certain nationalities from this integration requirement prior to admission? YES/NO. If you answer YES, please indicate which are these nationalities? N/a
	EMN NCP Lithuania	Yes	1. Question 1: Does your (Member) State have an integration requirement prior to admission for a residence purpose? Yes/No

			No 2. Question 2: If you answer YES to Q1, what does the integration requirement prior to admission for a residence purpose consist of? N/A 3. Question 3: If you answer YES to Q1, for which purposes of stay does this integration requirement prior to admission apply? N/A 4. Question 4: If you answer YES to Q1, does your Member State, exempt certain nationalities from this integration requirement prior to admission? YES/NO. If you answer YES, please indicate which are these nationalities? N/A
	EMN NCP Luxembourg	Yes	1. Question 1: Does your (Member) State have an integration requirement prior to admission for a residence purpose? Yes/No No 2. Question 2: If you answer YES to Q1, what does the integration requirement prior to admission for a residence purpose consist of? N/A. 3. Question 3: If you answer YES to Q1, for which purposes of stay does this integration requirement prior to admission apply? N/A.

			4. Question 4: If you answer YES to Q1, does your Member State, exempt certain nationalities from this integration requirement prior to admission? YES/NO. If you answer YES, please indicate which are these nationalities? N/A.
	EMN NCP Netherlands	Yes	1. Question 1: Does your (Member) State have an integration requirement prior to admission for a residence purpose? Yes/No Yes 2. Question 2: If you answer YES to Q1, what does the integration requirement prior to admission for a residence purpose consist of? The Netherlands requires a civic integration exam abroad, which consists of a language test at A2-level and very basic knowledge of the Dutch society. 3. Question 3: If you answer YES to Q1, for which purposes of stay does this integration requirement prior to admission apply? In the Netherlands all third country nationals who apply for a residence permit for family reunification with a Dutch national or a third country national with a non-temporary residence status are required to take the civic integration exam abroad with the exception of the nationalities mentioned in answer 4. Temporary residence permits are for example permits for study, labour, medical treatment and exchange programs. 4. Question 4: If you answer YES to Q1, does your Member State, exempt certain nationalities from this integration requirement prior to admission? YES/NO. If you answer YES, please indicate which are these nationalities? In the Netherlands nationals who are exempted from the requirement of a provisional residence permit are also exempted from the requirement to pass the civic integration exam abroad. The nationalities that are exempted are citizens from the US, UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, Monaco, Switzerland, Norway Iceland, and the Vatican.

	EMN NCP Poland	Yes	1. Question 1: Does your (Member) State have an integration requirement prior to admission for a residence purpose? Yes/No No 2. Question 2: If you answer YES to Q1, what does the integration requirement prior to admission for a residence purpose consist of? n/a additional information to Q1: Poland applies the integration requirement in the form of confirmed knowledge of the Polish language and only to the applicants for a long-term resident's EU residence permit over the age of 16 at the time of application. The requirements are applied in a non-discriminatory manner - to all non-EU/EEA nationals without exception. In the case of a national permanent residence permit, TCN may get this permit, i.a., in case of intention to settle in Poland and where: - simultaneously demonstrates possession of Polish ancestry (one parent or grandparent or two great-grandparents of Polish nationality) and ties to Polishness, including by demonstrating knowledge of the Polish language and culture and cultivation of Polish traditions, or - is a holder of a valid Card of the Pole, i.e. a document issued to a person who declares his or her affiliation with the Polish nation and meets certain conditions, including that of demonstrating a connection with Polishness through at least a basic knowledge of the Polish language, which he or she considers to be his or her native language, and knowledge and cultivation of Polish traditions and customs. 3. Question 3: If you answer YES to Q1, for which purposes of stay does this integration requirement prior to admission apply? n/a 4. Question 4: If you answer YES to Q1, does your Member State, exempt certain nationalities from this integration requirement prior to admission? YES/NO. If you answer YES, please indicate which are these nationalities?

			n/a
	EMN NCP Portugal	Yes	1. Question 1: Does your (Member) State have an integration requirement prior to admission for a residence purpose? Yes/No No 2. Question 2: If you answer YES to Q1, what does the integration requirement prior to admission for a residence purpose consist of? N/A 3. Question 3: If you answer YES to Q1, for which purposes of stay does this integration requirement prior to admission apply? N/A 4. Question 4: If you answer YES to Q1, does your Member State, exempt certain nationalities from this integration requirement prior to admission? YES/NO. If you answer YES, please indicate which are these nationalities? N/A
	EMN NCP Serbia	Yes	1. Question 1: Does your (Member) State have an integration requirement prior to admission for a residence purpose? Yes/No No 2. Question 2: If you answer YES to Q1, what does the integration requirement prior to admission for a residence purpose consist of? N/A

			3. Question 3: If you answer YES to Q1, for which purposes of stay does this integration requirement prior to admission apply? N/A 4. Question 4: If you answer YES to Q1, does your Member State, exempt certain nationalities from this integration requirement prior to admission? YES/NO. If you answer YES, please indicate which are these nationalities? N/A
	EMN NCP Slovakia	Yes	1. Question 1: Does your (Member) State have an integration requirement prior to admission for a residence purpose? Yes/No No 2. Question 2: If you answer YES to Q1, what does the integration requirement prior to admission for a residence purpose consist of? The new amended Act on Residence of Foreigners which will enter into force on 15 July 2024 foresees a Slovak language test in case of application for long-term residence of the A2 level. This provision will be effective only as of 15 July 2025 so all the details will be set throughout the year. 3. Question 3: If you answer YES to Q1, for which purposes of stay does this integration requirement prior to admission apply? See response to question 2. 4. Question 4: If you answer YES to Q1, does your Member State, exempt certain nationalities from this integration requirement prior to admission? YES/NO. If you answer YES, please indicate which are these nationalities? See response to question 2.

	EMN NCP Slovenia	Yes	1. Question 1: Does your (Member) State have an integration requirement prior to admission for a residence purpose? Yes/No No 2. Question 2: If you answer YES to Q1, what does the integration requirement prior to admission for a residence purpose consist of? To clarify, Slovenia applies an integration requirement in the form of a condition of Slovenian language proficiency at the subsistence level when extending the temporary residence permit for the purpose of family reunification for an adult family member. The family member proves that the condition is met by submitting a certificate of successfully passing an exam on the knowledge of Slovenian language at the subsistence level (Until November 2024, only proof of enrolment to a Slovenian language course is necessary). Educational institutions or organizations that run informal educational programs for adults to learn the Slovenian language carry out the mandatory exam. Providers of informal educational programs for adults to learn the Slovenian language issue a certificate of enrollment in the program to the participant. The condition of knowledge of the Slovenian language at a subsistence level is not mandatory for an adult family member when: a certificate of a successfully completed exam on knowledge of Slovenian language on at least the entry level, as determined by the CEFR, is presented, they are accepted into publicly valid educational or study programs in the Republic of Slovenia, which are carried out in the Slovenian language and enable the acquisition of publicly valid education, they have completed schooling at any level in the Republic of Slovenia or has completed primary or secondary school with the Slovenian language of instruction in areas where members of the indigenous Slovenian national community live in the neighboring countries, they are illiterate but can communicate in Slovenian, which is proven by a certificate of successfully passing an exam in spoken communication in Slovenian at the subsistence level,if they are over 60 years old, in case of inability to take the test in the required form due to a disability which hinders communication, as evidenced by an expert’s report, they are a family member of a foreigner who is an EU Blue Card holder, they are a family member of a foreigner who was granted a temporary residence permit to work in research, higher

			education and university education, they are a family member of a foreigner who was granted a temporary residence permit to carry out research work for the purpose of a long-term relocation, they are a family member of a foreigner who was issued with a single residence and work permit as an intra-corporate transferee, in the case when their family reunification is in the interest of the Republic of Slovenia. Additionally, Slovenia will also apply the language requirement in the process of issuing a permanent residence permit from November 2024, where the third-country national must meet the condition of knowledge of the Slovenian language at the basic level (A2 according to CEFR). The condition of knowledge of the Slovenian language at the basic level is not mandatory for the third-country national if: they are accepted into publicly valid educational or study programs in of the Republic of Slovenia, which are carried out in the Slovenian language and enable the acquisition of publicly valid education, they have completed schooling at any level in the Republic of Slovenia or have completed primary or secondary school with the Slovenian language of instruction in areas where members of the indigenous Slovenian national community live in the neighboring countries, they are over 60 years old or under 18, they are unable to take the test in the required form due to a disability which hinders communication, as evidenced by an expert's report, they are illiterate but can communicate in Slovenian, which is proven by a certificate of successfully passing an exam in spoken communication in Slovenian at the basic level, if the third-country national can be issued a permanent residence permit before the expiry of five years of continuous legal residence in the Republic of Slovenia. 3. Question 3: If you answer YES to Q1, for which purposes of stay does this integration requirement prior to admission apply? see reply to Q2. 4. Question 4: If you answer YES to Q1, does your Member State, exempt certain nationalities from this integration requirement prior to admission? YES/NO. If you answer YES, please indicate which are these nationalities?

			No.
	EMN NCP Spain	Yes	1. Question 1: Does your (Member) State have an integration requirement prior to admission for a residence purpose? Yes/No No 2. Question 2: If you answer YES to Q1, what does the integration requirement prior to admission for a residence purpose consist of? NA 3. Question 3: If you answer YES to Q1, for which purposes of stay does this integration requirement prior to admission apply? NA 4. Question 4: If you answer YES to Q1, does your Member State, exempt certain nationalities from this integration requirement prior to admission? YES/NO. If you answer YES, please indicate which are these nationalities? NA
	EMN NCP Sweden	Yes	1. Question 1: Does your (Member) State have an integration requirement prior to admission for a residence purpose? Yes/No No 2. Question 2: If you answer YES to Q1, what does the integration requirement prior to admission for a residence purpose consist of? -

			3. Question 3: If you answer YES to Q1, for which purposes of stay does this integration requirement prior to admission apply? - 4. Question 4: If you answer YES to Q1, does your Member State, exempt certain nationalities from this integration requirement prior to admission? YES/NO. If you answer YES, please indicate which are these nationalities? -

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