

All about Construction

Newsletter – July Edition

July 2021
Issue 19



Managing Director David Phillips on T Levels and Skills for Wales



I am delighted to be able to introduce you to the end of year edition of City & Guilds 'All about Construction' newsletter. This newsletter is packed full of information and updates providing many reasons to feel positive about the future, including that construction is the first sector in the UK to be delivering more economic output in 2021 than before the pandemic in 2019. And, as it drives 9% of the UK economy, construction is leading the UK's pandemic recovery.

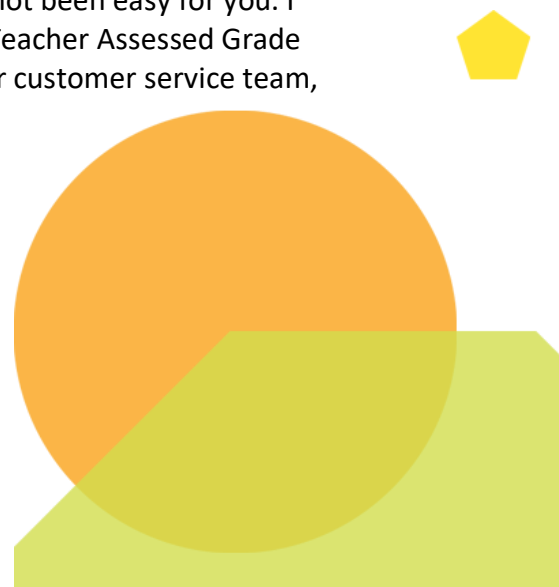
And although we move towards the end of another challenging academic year it is timely to reflect that there are opportunities going forward to build on successes. City & Guilds therefore welcomes the publishing in March of the CLCs Skills plan for the sector which provided recommendations to attract more people into construction, deliver more training and apprenticeships in the sector, and provide more opportunities for life-long learning for those already in the sector.

To support the building of a pipeline of talented and diverse individuals to take the industry forward I am delighted to say there are just a few weeks to go to the first teaching in England of the new T Level in onsite construction, and the first teaching in Wales of the new suite of construction qualifications. You can read more about these areas of important work in this newsletter.

I'd like to say an enormous thank you to the huge array of employers, associations and sector bodies involved in the development processes to feed into these qualifications to ensure they include the skills and knowledge that employers are looking for to help bridge the skills gaps that the sector has. I'd also like to thank all the colleges and training providers that will be delivering these qualifications for your ongoing positive engagement to start to bring these qualifications to life for the cohorts of learners from September.

With new and existing funding schemes in place for colleges and training providers, like Restart and the Adult Education Budget, the construction sector is being used as a barometer for our post-covid recovery, and so the value and emphasis placed on it has perhaps never been felt more keenly.

Thank you to the centres who have worked patiently and tirelessly through the different assessment adaptations and mitigations this year. I know it has not been easy for you. I would like to encourage you to keep an eye out for our regular Teacher Assessed Grade emails and updates and reach out to your business manager, our customer service team, and our technical advisors for any support you need.



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Step into Construction

As we drive towards building back following the pandemic one industry that is going to play a key role is Construction. At City & Guilds we developed a free suitable short course designed to support skills bridging. Our Step into Construction programme has had a great response and uptake. Learners from across the nation have been signing up and enrolling onto this short course to explore opportunities and gain a greater understanding of the Construction industry and roles within it. To find out more please visit our Step into Construction course [here](#). You can also view our short introductory video to Step into Construction [here](#).

TAGS- Teacher Assessed Grades

Please find via the link below our latest communication on the submission of TAG grade deadlines. [Vocational Qualifications TAG submissions - important updates \(cityandguilds.com\)](#)

Traineeships

As we know Traineeships are designed for young people and are an education and training programme created to help learners who are interested in securing an apprenticeship or employment. Traineeships are delivered typically as part of a 6-12-week programme. To support our centres and learners we created a Traineeship flyer which can be used to explain Traineeships to learners and parents/guardians. You can find our flyer [here](#).

We have also provided some exemplar Construction & BSE Traineeship programme plans. Highlighting the key areas including potential qualifications that could be covered. You can

find our Construction programme plans [here](#) and you can view our presentation recording [here](#).

If you would like more information on Traineeships and how they can work for your learners, please contact your dedicated business manager or one of our Construction Technical Advisors.

BACH- Regional Vice Chair East Midlands – City & Guilds Technical Advisor

The Construction Team and City & Guilds organisation would like to say congratulations to our Technical Advisor Paul Brown who was recently appointed as BACH (British Association of Construction Heads) regional vice chair for the East Midlands region. Paul is excited to work closely with the Construction heads in the region and support the regional chair Mick Hinds of SMB Group and contribute to the NEC and BACH organisation.

Construction End Point Assessment Update

Due to their popularity, we are delivering another series of our Construction EPA webinars later this month and into July, supporting centres in the readiness of delivering City & Guilds EPAs. The webinar dates and registration details are below:

- Carpentry & Joinery Apprenticeship Standards and EPA 28th June @ 12.00pm register at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/772439213548458764>
- Bricklaying Apprenticeship Standards and EPA 29th June @ 12.00pm register at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2317657670852574988>
- Plastering Apprenticeship Standards and EPA 30th June @ 12.00pm register at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4272317765666336268>
- Painting & Decorating Apprenticeship Standards and EPA 1st July @ 12.00pm register at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5495385913102184972>

We have now carried out several carpentry and bricklayer EPAs. The bookings continue to grow, and we are comfortably meeting demand. As many of you will be aware a new standard for Carpentry and Joinery at both Craft (level2) and Advanced (level3) is now available on IfATE website: Apprenticeship standards / Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education We are working towards developing the new assessment plans for September.

Some of you may have noticed the Bricklayer, Painter and Plasterer standards first produced in 2018 may well be reviewed as this takes place every three years. We will look to become engaged in these reviews when they take place, possibly in 2022 – we are maintaining a watching brief.

Please see our associate vacancies page for the latest IEPA and LIEPA vacancies for construction. <https://careers.cityandguildsgroup.com/associate-vacancies>

Painting & Decorating and Plastering EPA

As you are aware we have been open for candidate registration for a long time now. Centres will be pleased to hear that the Plasterer EPA documents are expected to be available to centres in July. The Plasterer EPA document is **NOW** on SmartScreen for you to purchase: product code: 55161003. We will be taking EPA bookings from the 1st of September with the first assessment also being in September 2021.

Again, for Painter and Decorator we have been open for candidate registration for a long time.

Centres will be pleased to hear the Painter and Decorator EPA documents are expected to be available to centres in July. The Painter and Decorator EPA document is also expected to be available in July and this will be on SS for you to purchase. We will be taking EPA bookings and be available for first EPA assessment on the 1st of September 2021.

Property Maintenance Operative Buzz Update

A buzz update on Property Maintenance Operative (PMO). PMO recently went through several on-programme changes which were updated to centres. You can find the update [here](#). To accompany these changes, we also made some significant changes to the structure of our PMO EPA. You will now find that the Practical and Interview assessments have separate component numbers. Practical is now 701 and the interview 702. The reason behind this is to ensure a more efficient and fair booking, when booking resits for learners who may have failed one of the components. You will then be charged accordingly for the resit in line with the new fee structure, which is also on our sliding scale model. You can find out more info on the changes in our PMO EPA guidance pack for centres found [here](#). For more information on fees please contact your dedicated business manager.

T Level Buzz Update

As September draws ever near, we continue to support our centres in the delivery of the new Construction T Level qualifications. Our team of Technical Advisors and Industry Managers from City & Guilds and EAL have been working on several webinar and network series to support centres in the preparation of delivering the T Level content. These sessions have been targeted towards the approved centres delivering from September 2021. You can find our recent webinar/network recordings along with resources to support Teaching, learning, and planning on our Construction T Level page [here](#). This webpage is the planned location for the **free** T level resources, that are currently in development and will be available from August this year.

T Level Podcast

Our Industry Manager Naz Lewis-Humphrey has been working on a podcast series for the new T Levels. In the first episode, Naz, is joined by Kat Heeley the Vice Chair of the City & Guilds On-Site Construction Employer Industry Board and Training Manager at Guinness Properties, to discuss the forthcoming On-site Construction T Levels. You can listen to the podcase [here](#).

For more information on T Levels please contact our Technical Advisor Jason Howe at Jason.Howe@cityandguilds.com

Skills for Wales Qualifications

Qualifications Wales

Qualifications Wales conducted a review of qualifications in the construction and built environment sector and published their findings in the Building the Future: Sector Review of the Qualification System in Construction and the Built Environment report in 2018.

<https://www.qualificationswales.org/media/3176/building-the-future.pdf>. They found that a number of changes should be made to the system to simplify the landscape of qualifications making progression routes clearer, and in this fast-developing sector that the qualifications are aligned to what employers are looking for so learners can be prepared for the world of work.

We also have developed a 'News' section on the website which has our first 'Skills for Wales' newsletter which was also emailed out to customers recently.

<https://www.skillsforwales.wales/news>

Centres

As we are aware the new qualifications will be available for first teaching from September 2021 (Foundation and Progression in September 2021 and the Apprenticeship in 2022). Only learners who register for study on or after 1 September 2021 will take the new qualifications. The existing qualifications will remain in place until 31st May 2022 to allow for a smooth transition. Final learner registrations of the current Level 2 and Level 3 construction and building services engineering qualifications, used by centres for 16–19-year-olds and apprentices, will take place in August 2021.

To support you through the changes we will be offering a range of online, and face-to-face events at locations all over Wales, to support teachers, trainers and assessors in the delivery and review of our new suite of construction and building services engineering qualifications. For the latest events <https://www.skillsforwales.wales/training-and-events>

All of the new qualifications will have specification handbooks and sample assessments available through the medium of Welsh and English. All external assessments will be available through the medium of Welsh, and centres and training providers will be provided with support to also make internal assessment available through the medium of Welsh.

<https://www.skillsforwales.wales/qualifications>

To keep up to date with the latest developments, guidance and events sign up to receive our emails.

<https://www.skillsforwales.wales/sign-up>

Employers

City & Guilds and EAL have been working with employers in the built environment sector across Wales to develop a new suite of construction and Building services engineering qualifications so learners are more confident and workplace ready.

The qualifications are now available for first teaching in September 2021. We would encourage you to raise awareness of the qualifications across your staff and across your contacts and wider networks. The briefing toolkit located on the skills for wales website provides you with short and long articles to copy and paste into your newsletters, outlines the benefits of the qualifications to generate your own news items from, and proposes tweets for you to easily post. <https://www.skillsforwales.wales/support/employers>
To keep up to date with the latest developments, guidance and events sign up to receive our emails. <https://www.skillsforwales.wales/sign-up>

Green Renewable Energy

When looking at the sector we know the Green Agenda is a concern and a key factor on how this will affect the industry when considering current and new legislation combined with the impact on the environment.

In their latest Industry Skills Plan the Construction Leadership Council discuss the focus needed around the challenges and key skills around net zero carbon and smart construction. There is a demand for a more skilled workforce which needs to meet the regional and national targets to retrofit more homes to attain the higher environmental standards.

A wide range of skills are required to transform the industry to include:

- New Technologies – offsite, creativity, sustainability
- Delivery on net zero carbon targets through efficient energies, new builds, and construction operation
- Skills to embed in emerging innovations, digital technologies, improve efficiency & productivity & sustainability
- Waste management
- Reform to build safely
- Increase biodiversity & decreasing pollution

We know Wales have developed a skills matrix to address areas of skills development and demand with Scotland following. Reviewing the nations offer and working collaboratively with employers and providers, City and Guilds are creating an enhanced portfolio, to include the CLC's recommendations, in response to the Green skills agenda.

Women in Construction and Support Networks

Spotlight on one of our EIB Employers Procure Plus who are developing some amazing networks to support women working in construction trades. All are online and via social media, check them out on the links below. Thank you, Kate Parker.

Women and Manual Trades - WaMT

Women and Manual Trades works with Registered Housing Providers (RPs), training organisations and construction industry employers, to help recruit and retain tradeswomen in response to the current serious construction skills shortage, in order to achieve a better gender balance between tradespeople working in construction.

WaMT provides practical support to all concerned with addressing the current imbalance by securing employment opportunities for female tradeswomen. Through a collaborative approach WaMT provides advice, support and guidance to the RPs, training organisations and employers as well as policy makers, to facilitate the growth in women with career opportunities within the construction sector.

WaMT is a subsidiary of Procure Plus Holdings.

Open networks- Education network support for females in Construction

<https://opendoors.construction/>

Open Doors is a fantastic opportunity for young people and those looking for a change of career to find out what the industry has to offer by going behind the site hoardings and seeing the diverse range of opportunities available.

Open Doors 2021 will take place from Monday 4 – Saturday 9 October and we are looking forward to offering a combination of site visits and virtual experiences.

Open Woodwork- the network for women in woodworking trades.

The aim of the group is to allow women working "on the tools" in wood trades such as carpentry & joinery to be connected and to come together to seek and share advice, tips and ideas and to offer each other mutual support.

We welcome to the group women who are training and women who are already working in the industry, as well as women considering a career in Wood trades including Carpentry & Joinery.

Link to the Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/731972764388915>

Open Painting & Decorating

Like Open Woodwork, the aim of the Open Painting & Decorating is to allow women working in the sector to be connected and to come together to seek and share advice, tips and ideas and to offer each other mutual support.

We welcome to the group women who are training and women who are already working in the industry, as well as women considering a career in the painting and decorating trade.

Link to the Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/openpaintinganddecorating>

[Open Circuit - the network for women in electrics.](#)

As with the previous two open networks, the aim of the group is to allow women working "on the tools" in electrics and electro technical to be connected and to come together to seek and share advice, tips and ideas and to offer each other mutual support.

We welcome to the group women who are training and women who are already working in the industry, as well as women considering a career in the electrical trades.

Link to the Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/218665702056566>

[Working with us as an Associate](#)

Have you thought about using your experience and skills, working as an associate with City & Guilds? Often these work alongside other job roles and commitments and give you the opportunity to support in quality assurance and assessment.

We have a variety of roles available:

- Some are available at set times, and have set closing dates for consideration
- Some are available all year round, and we accept applications, which are then considered when there is an increased demand.

City & Guilds operate in many areas of construction, however also in many wider industry areas, therefore do share this with friends, colleagues, networks who might be interested in the opportunities we have available.

Visit <https://careers.cityandguildsgroup.com/associate-vacancies> for more information about

- Roles we have available
- Areas that we work in
- How to apply
- General guidance

Current Focuses for EPA roles are:

- Brick Work (LIEPA and IEPAs)



- Carpentry & Joinery (IEPAs)
- Painting/Decorating (LIEPA and IEPAs)
- Plastering (LIEPA and IEPAs)
- Property Maintenance Operative (LIEPA and IEPAs)

Just to note if you have already applied, we will contact you, so please bear with us.

If you would like more information on our vacancies you can visit our dedicated webpage [here](#), contact one of our Technical Advisors.

Our Centre Showcase

In this section of our newsletter, we will be showcasing representatives from the construction industry that work with City & Guilds. For this edition we are pleased to announce that, we have a special edition as we are showcasing not one but three colleges from our Wales region celebrating the launch of our new Skills for Wales Construction qualifications which launch in September this year.

Our first college is **Gower College** in Swansea.

At Gower College Swansea, our main aim is to ensure that our Construction students develop an attitude towards work and study that will enable them to cope with the inevitable changes that the future will bring, and to help bridge the skills gap in the building services industry. Our teaching team are knowledgeable, experienced, and committed, working with each of our learners to carefully monitor their performance and provide professional guidance at every stage of their education.



We offer a variety of full-time courses, part time courses and apprenticeships (levels 1-3) in Brickwork, Carpentry and Joinery, Painting and Decorating, Plastering, Plumbing and Heating. These are offered at our specialist Construction Centre at our Jubilee Court campus; each trade area boasting workshops with top of the range equipment. From September 2021, we will also be offering the new Foundation in Construction and the Built Environment qualification.

We have excellent working partnerships with local industry. As well as our Construction Center, we have a specialist, standalone Energy Centre. Here, we deliver courses that



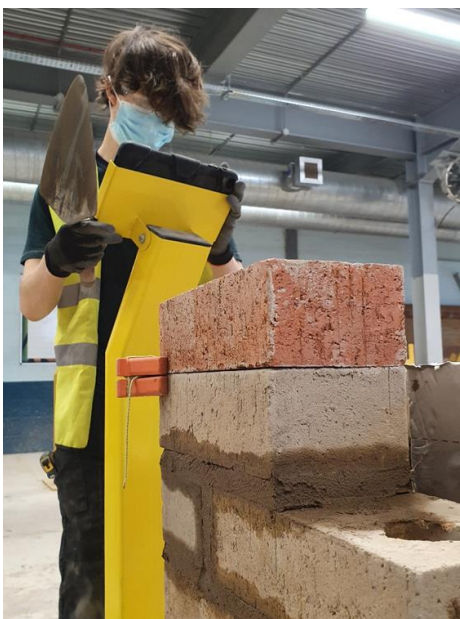
contribute towards the ‘Homes as Power Stations’ project, which is part of the Swansea Bay City Deal. This project aims to deliver smart, low-carbon, energy-efficient homes across the Swansea Bay City Region (Carmarthenshire, Neath Port Talbot, Swansea, and Pembrokeshire) by developing new build homes, retro-fitting existing buildings and supporting local supply chain development. Our ambition is to support the Building Services Industry in delivering training for the future to enable housing stock in Wales to become carbon negative, which would contribute towards relieving fuel poverty and contribute towards the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.



To reach this goal, we are currently offering courses in Solar Photovoltaic, Ground Source Heat Pumps, Air Source Heat Pumps, Solar Thermal Hot Water and Vehicle Charging and are currently developing courses in Battery Storage and Integration, and Mechanical Heat Recovery. We are also proud to be working with SPECIFIC - a UK Innovation and Knowledge Centre to identify current and future skills gaps and to ensure the necessary skills are available through the development of our curriculum.

Our second showcase college is **Coleg Cambria Deeside** – Bricklaying department

Our learners use IT in the Bricklaying workshop during their practical sessions. Tutors have arranged for adjustable heavy duty stands to be made to support the tablet computers. Students access their training tasks, including drawings and specifications via their Google Drive and the tutors assess work via Google Forms. This overcomes the need for paper-based portfolios having to be used in the workshop, and overall reduces the amount of paper used by the department.



With the stands being adjustable and positioned at the corner of the workspace, students can film themselves working and then look back at their technique afterwards. Tutors and other students can watch the videos and provide feedback and where a technique needs to be discussed with the group, the video can be Chromecast to a screen in the workshop to share with other students in the group.

Students also take photos using the tablets, which are then saved to their Google Drive. They then use the photos for their portfolios as evidence and as a record of their skills when going for interview for apprenticeships and jobs.



Our final showcase college is [Coleg Sir Gâr and Coleg Ceredigion](#)



Here at Coleg Sir Gâr and Coleg Ceredigion our aim is to provide opportunities for a life-long career in construction, and to provide courses which lead to satisfying career prospects in this much needed and worthwhile industry.

We support our learners at every stage in their journey with us, from first engagement with the college on the 14-16 school link programmes, to full-time further education courses and apprenticeships. Further progression opportunities are also available for many on our higher education to degree honours programmes of study.

Particularly rewarding is the commitment shown by our learners who despite the challenges of Covid-19 have maintained their studies during prolonged lockdowns and firebreaks and have continued with face-to-face delivery to achieve their programme goals.

We have never been prouder of our learners' commitment than this year, with many of our students not only working and studying in the industry, but also contributing greatly to the fight against the pandemic by providing crucial services in the community.

One such case study is that of Callum Taylor who Joined the college having been successful in securing a place on the Next Steps programme and employed by a local contractor Lloyd and Gravell as a plastering apprentice.

Callum has shown great commitment to his studies through this difficult and challenging year, as well as working on two of the Nightingale hospitals in the Carmarthenshire area. Callum is set to complete his level two diploma in plastering this year and aims to progress to level three next year.



[Future network events and webinars](#)

Due to the current climate, we are converting (where possible) all our network events to webinars. Below is a list of the webinars planned and the links needed to register onto them. More webinars and online events will be added due to ongoing customer requests for support. You can also visit our LinkedIn and Twitter pages for future webinars. If your centre has any bespoke needs or you would like a 1-1 session with our TAs, then please contact them via their details in the `Meet the Team` section of the newsletter.



Get to know City & Guilds staff

This issue we caught up with Angharad who has recently started in her new role as Policy, Stakeholder and Partnership Manager for the Nations. Prior to the role, Angharad was the Business Development Manager for the Wales region, here at City & Guilds. Congratulations to Angharad.



1. How long have you worked at City & Guilds? **Just over 2 years - I started in January 2019**
2. Where did you work prior to City & Guilds? **I used to work for CACHE/NCFE as an Account Manager and previous to that I was a Childcare Assessor and Tutor.**
3. What is the best thing about working at City & Guilds? **My colleagues, customers and Stakeholders.**
4. What is your most prized possession? **My relationship with my sons! Osian is 20 and Ioan is 18**
5. What do you like to do in your spare time? **I enjoy keeping fit – running, cycling, walking and tabata. I also enjoy meeting up with family and friends and drinking red wine!**
6. If you could go on holiday anywhere in the world where would it be? **Anywhere would be great right now! I would love to go to the Seychelles**
7. What is your favourite film? **I don't really watch films or tv! But if I do enjoy the James Bond films.**
8. What is your favourite food? **I love any Seafood – Scallops and King Prawns are my favourite!**
9. When you were younger, what did you want to be when you grew up? **I wanted to be an Actress or a Presenter on TV. I applied to be the host on 'Wheel of Fortune' and I was rejected at the age of 18! I did do some presenting work on S4C when I was around 18 years old.**
10. What is your go to karaoke song? **Got to be Queen – 'Don't Stop Me Now'!!**

As this is a special edition newsletter we also caught up with City & Guilds Managing Director David Phillips



1. How long have you worked at City & Guilds? **5 years and I can't believe how quickly it has gone!**
2. Where did you work prior to City & Guilds? **10 years working at Pearson in several roles.**
3. What is the best thing about working at City & Guilds? **It's all about the people. My colleagues and our customers. All working to make a difference for learners.**
4. What is your most prized possession? **My bike. I love my bike!!!**
5. What do you like to do in your spare time? **Enjoy cycling and swimming, reading fiction and fantasy novels, sci-fi and fantasy films and watching rugby.**
6. If you could go on holiday anywhere in the world where would it be? **After the year we have had, anywhere!!!**
7. What is your favourite film? **Too hard to answer!! I'll go with any Star Wars or Harry Potter film or any one of the 22 Marvel Avengers films.**

8. What is your favourite food? **Indian food and Wagamama.**
9. When you were younger, what did you want to be when you grew up? **I honestly can't remember. Not sure that I was that forward thinking but have an inkling of wanting to be a pilot.**
10. What is your go to karaoke song? **Bohemian Rhapsody by Queen.**

Tell us what you think

All About Construction is a newsletter that brings together the key developments from City & Guilds relevant to Construction skills learning across England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales and Internationally. It contains updates on the range of teaching and learning resources we offer, plus relevant public policy or other information we think you might be interested in. Each edition is numbered, so we can refer to previous issues or tell you when information has been superseded. All our newsletters can be found on the website here.

Remember: If you are interested in supporting City & Guilds either as a consultant to writer, review, marker, moderator, or as an EQA please do get in touch with us at construction@cityandguilds.com

For specific queries and enquiries please contact our dedicated customer support team: CentreSupport@cityandguilds.com

If you would like to feature in our Centre Showcase or Industry Showcase sections of our newsletter, please email construction@cityandguilds.com



Associate Vacancies **LIEPAs and IEPAs**

We are currently recruiting for Lead Independent End Point Assessors (LIEPA) and Independent End Point Assessors (IEPA) in the following trade areas:

- [Brickwork- LIEPA and IEPAs](#)
- [Carpentry & Joinery \(inc. Advanced\)- LIEPA and IEPAs](#)
- [Painting & Decorating- LIEPA and IEPA](#)
- [Plastering- LIEPA and IEPAs](#)
- [PMO- LIEPA and IEPA](#)

(The bullet points are hyperlinked to the vacancies)

Connect with us

	Please follow us on twitter @ConstructionCG
	Please join our LinkedIn group for Construction and Utilities

Meet the Construction Team



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