



“Behind the Wheel”

The newsletter for the professional driver since 1989

Maine Professional Drivers Association

Volume 23 Number 3

“Committed to Safety, Courtesy, and Professionalism”

December 2013



Message from the President

Greetings:

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find the results of the recent election. I would like to welcome all the officers that will be taking office in January.

*July 1, 2013 there were some huge changes for drivers, two of the most egregious changes were the 34 hour restart requiring two consecutive days of 1:00AM to 5:00AM off duty and the required half hour break. This change has wreaked havoc on the trucking industry. The ATA, OOIDA and others took FMCSA the court but the court sided with FMCSA. FMCSA said it was a good rule, even though they have not completed the proper study to see if this would actually increase safety of truck drivers and the motoring public. So on October 31, 2013 **Richard Hanna** (R-NY) along with **Tom Rice** (R-SC), and **Mike Michaud** (D-ME) introduced HR 3413 also known as the **TRUE Safety Act** that would return the HOS to pre July 1, 2013. This bill now has 40 cosponsors. Here are 2 places to go for more information.*

<http://beta.congress.gov/bill/113th/house-bill/3413>

<http://hanna.house.gov/press1/hanna-introduces-bill-to-delay-hours-of-service-rule/>

Today, December 2, 2013 FMCSA released Docket No. DMCSA-2013-0457, which will correct some but not all issues with incorrect information on drivers and companies. What is this about? It is about a driver being written a violation and going to court and having it dismissed or be found innocent yet the FMCSA will not remove this “violation” from the driver or company record. The article following my message explains it very well.

As the incoming Legislative Officer of MPDA I am looking forward to keeping us all abreast of anything concerning transportation issues, whether it be state or federal, and testifying in Augusta on any transportation bill that may affect us.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

George Colby, President, Maine Professional Drivers Association

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Splitshifting *by Denis Litalien*

With technology creeping into every part of our lives and jobs, it's no surprise that we find it difficult to keep up on the MPDA front. While I'm coming to grips with driving a truck with an automatic transmission, computer logbook, gps navigation, electronic dispatch messaging, and other technical stuff, I'm finding it harder and harder to keep up. Maybe I'm just getting old! Some of the younger guys are stepping up to help me cope with this, thank God!

Rob Fernald recently set up our MPDA meetings so that anyone can sit in via a phone connection with Freeconferencing.com. This means that anyone can attend our meetings now without actually being there, which also means no 200 mile round trips to stay up on what is going on. Members may now call at the start of the next MPDA meeting at 805-399-1000 and when they ask for an access code, you dial in 510699#.

Rob also has MPDA on Facebook, another bit of technology that I'm finding hard to keep up with! All this technology is no doubt helpful to us and is the future in helping keeping MPDA relevant in keeping members informed on what is going on in the industry, in the State and in activities that members find interesting. We will strive to keep everyone informed in whatever way we can in the coming years so stay tuned!

With the elections of officers having taken place with new people taking positions in January, we will look forward to fresh ideas and continuing support for activities that will benefit truck drivers and promote our ideals of being committed to safety, professionalism and integrity. Please help me and our new officers in making our organization one for all truck drivers to be proud of.

Rob Fernald reminds us that Trucker Charity is doing a holiday event by helping those less fortunate. Last year they gave \$500 each to 17 families and are looking to help more this year. Go to truckercharity.org to sign up a family who may need help for the holidays.

We will make an effort to get news out to our members in a more timely fashion and hope to establish a monthly email newsletter for all members who get email.

If you get this by regular mail but would like to get it by email and save us the postage and printing, please send me an email at dentruck@hotmail.com.

See you at the next meeting in January or at least hear from you by phone conference. If you have any questions about anything we are doing, feel free to give me a call at 207-468-7373. I'm looking forward to hearing from more of our members.

In the meantime, keep it between the lines and get there safely!

ATA BOARD MAKES CHANGES TO NTDC

At their October 9th meeting, the Maine Motor Transport Association (MMTA) Board of Directors adopted a resolution supporting a more inclusive policy when it comes to non-ATA members competing at the National Truck Driving Championships (NTDC). We are pleased to report that the American Trucking Associations (ATA) Board has unanimously voted in favor of the resolution (language below) amending the requirements for the NTDC to include all competitors who are members of a state trucking association and that they will be afforded full and equal recognition.

Thanks go to Maine's State VP representatives to the ATA – Barry Pottle (at-large member) and Chelsea Pottle – for carrying our message along with other states who supported the change. Our hope is that this may encourage additional participation at future TDC events!

ATA Board Resolution:

RESOLVED, that in order to encourage and incentivize an increase in the number of drivers who strive to drive accident-free, eligibility to compete in the National Truck Driving Championships and National Step Van Driving Championships, and receive related recognition and awards during the competitions, shall be extended to all State Truck Driving Championships winners who are employed by or contracted to a motor carrier member of an ATA-affiliated state trucking association and meet all other applicable eligibility requirements.

ATA's National Truck Driving Championships (NTDC) and National Step Van Driving Championships will be held August 9-13 in Pittsburgh.

Maine Trucking for Kids Convoy

2013 marked the 24th year the Maine Professional Drivers Association has hosted or co-hosted the Maine Trucking for Kids Convoy. During that span the event has raised over \$185,000 for local charities involving kids, including donating over \$100,000 to Camp Sunshine since joining forces with the Lions Clubs in 1999. This year 63 trucks took part in the Convoy which raised \$17,150.

The complete story and list of award winners for the driving competition and the truck show are on the MPDA Convoy website.

Go to: mpda.org/trucking4kids.

2013 Charity Challenge Report

72 drivers and families participated in the 15th Charity Challenge. With a combination of company contributors, driver pledges, food sales and raffles the event brought in over \$33,000. When all the event expenses are paid we will donate over \$22,000 net to St. Jude. This brings our 15 year total fundraised to just over \$482,000. There is no doubt that we will cross the half million dollar mark next year. The 2014 Charity Challenge is scheduled for Sunday, September 7, 2014. For a full report, go to necharitychallenge.org

On behalf of the entire Charity Challenge Committee, thank you very much for your past, present and future support.

Fred Schenk

Chairperson,
Northeast Professional Drivers
Charity Challenge

Thank You!

I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to everyone who either worked behind the scenes planning and or working at one of our events this year we greatly appreciate your continued support to keep us moving forward. We will start reaching out soon to ask for your help again with our 2014 events. We are very excited to announce that we are in the planning stages for our 25th MPDA anniversary banquet sometime next fall, stay tuned for more details. Next meeting January 19th Hannaford 8:00am hope to see you there. Have a safe Holiday Season!

Randy DeVault, TDC Officer

National Champions

Three-Axle: MA - Roland Bolduc, FedEx Express, East Longmeadow, Mass.

Four-Axle: NM - Ralph Garcia, ABF Freight System, Inc., Rio Rancho, N. Mex.

Five-Axle: VA - George Johnson, UPS Freight, Aylett, Va.

Flatbed Class: KY - Richard Wayne Crowder, FedEx Freight, Lanesville, Ind.

Sleeper Berth Class: KS - Gary Harms, **Walmart Transportation**, Olathe, Kan.

Straight Truck: MD - James Carver, Owings, Md.

Tank Truck Class: AZ - Ina Daly, Con-way Freight, Avondale, Ariz. (Ina is the first female driver to win a division at the National Truck Driving Championships.)

Twins: ID: Timothy Melody, ABF Freight System, Inc., Fruitland, Idaho

Step Van: OK: Justin Kingsley, FedEx Ground, Tulsa, Okla.

Grand Champion: Gary Harms, **Walmart Transportation** (Olathe, Kan.)

National Rookie of the Year: Bruce Renton, Holland (Grand Rapids, Mich.)

State Team Trophy: Kansas (2nd - Wisconsin; 3rd - Vermont)

Vehicle Condition Award: Don Logan, FedEx Freight (Eskridge, Kan.)

Neill Darmstadter Professional Excellence Award: Ralph Garcia, ABF Freight System, Inc. (Rio Rancho, N.M.)

Life-Time Volunteer Award: John Killilee, Meridian, ID

For more information, visit the 2013 National Truck Driving Championships website at: http://www.truckline.com/Driving_Championships.aspx

Maine Driver Results at the Nationals

Craig Carver	Walmart	4
Ken Duncan	Walmart	10
Alan Paradis	A&A Trucking	11
Ron Round	Pottle's	12
Bob Cochran	FedEx	20
Eric Foster	Land Air	31
Jim Lafontaine	Walmart	31
Larry Menter	YRC	34

2013 Maine State Truck Driving Championship Results

Twin Trailers

245	Larry Menter	YRC Freight
194	Hayri Berberoglu	Sysco of Northern NE
183	Ray Rogers	FedEx Freight
	Steve Foster	FedEx Ground
	Don Fortin, Sr.	Hannaford Trucking Co.
	Rob Fernald	Walmart Transportation
	Greg Deterding	UPS Freight
	Chris Goforth	Dennis Paper & Foodservice
	Phil Jordan	Dennis Paper & Foodservice

Five Axle Tank

309	Ken Duncan	Walmart Transportation
302	Ray Bucknell	Irving Oil Terminals, Inc.
280	Joseph Wagner	Irving Oil Terminals, Inc.
	James Coburn	Hannaford Trucking Co.
	Jim Costa	Patriot Tank Lines
	Lucien Langlois	Irving Oil Terminals, Inc.
	Michael Jodoin	Dysart's Transportation

Straight Truck

324	Alan Paradis	A&A Trucking
261	Robert Danforth	Walmart Transportation
247	Fred Ayer	Dysart's Transportation
	Shawn Brown	Dennis Paper & Foodservice
	John Ayer	Dysart's Transportation
	Anthony Dascanio	Oakhurst Dairy
	Jason Lovejoy	Dennis Paper & Food

Five Axle Sleeper

305	Craig Carver, Sr.	Walmart Transportation
265	Randolph Chaloux	Pottle's Transportation (*5)
251	Tom Pooler	Hannaford Trucking Co.
	Jeff Granholm	Pottle's Transportation (*5)
	Andrew Maillet	Hartt Transportation
	Daryl Friedman	Dysart's Transportation
	David Merriam	Hartt Transportation
	Earl Davis, Jr.	Dysart's Transportation
	Timothy Adler	Hartt Transportation

Three Axle Van

229	Ross Bailey	Dennis Paper & Foodservice
138	Craig Whitehouse	Dennis Paper & Foodservice
110	Robert James	Dennis Paper & Foodservice

Four Axle Van

364	Ronald Round (*1,2,3,5)	Pottle's Transportation (*5)
239	Lester Lord	FedEx Freight
218	Vince Cote	Hannaford Trucking Co.
	Arthur Eldridge	Land Air Express
	Ronald Nickerson	Walmart
	James Vatter	YRC Freight
	David Rondeau	FedEx Express
	George Adams	Dennis Paper & Foodservice
	Christopher Berniger	BSP Trans

Step Van

315	Robert Cochran, II	FedEx Express
256	Erik Barden	FedEx Ground
226	Alex Hutchinson	FedEx Express
	Michael White	FedEx Ground
	Scott Wickstrom	FedEx Express
	John White	FedEx Ground
	Mike Burton	FedEx Ground
	Daniel Rioux	FedEx Express
	Jason Levasseur	FedEx Ground

Five Axle Van

347	Eric Foster	Land Air Express
343	Denis Litalien	Clifford W. Perham/Shaw's
298	Bill Annett	Walmart Transportation
	Jonathan Rousell	Portland Air Freight
	Joseph Spinney	RC Moore
	Ryan Letourneau	Portland Air Freight
	Jeremy Hay	BSP Trans
	Adam McFarland	Dennis Paper & Foodservice

-
- *1 Grand Champion
 - *2 Pre-trip Inspection Award Winner
 - *3 Written Test Award Winner
 - *4 Rookie of the Year
 - *5 Team Award
-

Five Axle Flatbed

341	Robert Magnuson	Hannaford Trucking Co.
229	James LaFontaine	Walmart Transportation
210	Patrick Worster	Hanington Bros.
	Scott Philips	W.T. Rand LLC
	David Gagne	Clifford W. Perham/Shaw's
	James Wilson	W.T. Rand LLC
	William Sprague	Hartt Transportation Systems
	Glen Thomas	Pottle's Transportation (*5)
	Dale Fox	Bayside Transport Inc.

Note: All contestants are listed in order of finish. Anyone wanting their individual scores should contact Randy DeVault or Denis Litalien.

Bolded names are members of the Maine Professional Drivers Association.

FMCSA to change violation challenge process in PSP, CSA

By Jami Jones, Land Line managing editor

The way FMCSA reports driver violations to the mega database that feeds data to the Pre-Employment Screening Program and Comprehensive, Safety, Accountability enforcement program is changing.

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration will publish a notice on Monday, Dec. 2, that outlines the way violations will be reported to the Motor Carrier Management Information System, or MCMIS.

That database supplies the roadside inspection and violation data to the PSP and the CSA program. The PSP program provides listings of all driver roadside inspection violations and crash reports to prospective employers. CSA scores and weights violations to determine motor carrier and driver compliance in various categories. The motor carrier rankings are public, but the driver ratings are used internally at FMCSA for enforcement only.

Drivers and motor carriers currently have the option to contest violation data in MCMIS. The challenges, called DataQ, are submitted to FMCSA and routed back to the originating law enforcement agency.

Before the changes outlined in the notice, if a driver were to be found not guilty or have a citation dismissed in court, there was no policy in place to have the corresponding violation removed from MCMIS. That led to inconsistencies in how challenges were handled state to state.

With the announced changes, challenged violations that have a corresponding citation that is either dismissed or given a “not guilty” verdict will have the challenged violation removed.

Citations that are dismissed by a court but have fines or court fees assessed will be reported as convictions to the system.

If the court convicts the driver of a charge different from the original citation, the original corresponding violation will remain in MCMIS. There will be a note added to the violation that the legal challenge “Resulted in conviction of a different charge.” In the PSP program, the violation will also remain with a similar notation of being

convicted of a different charge. For the purposes of CSA, the severity weight, or points, associated with the violation will be reduced to the lowest value of either the original violation or the newly convicted corresponding violation.

The notice says the changes will only apply to inspections on or after the implementation date of the policy.

After Monday, the public will have 30 days to comment on the prospective application of the changes. All comments should include Docket No. FMCSA-2013-0457. Comments can be submitted:

Via www.regulations.gov;

By fax at 202-493-2251; By mail to Docket Management Facility (M-30), U.S. Department of Transportation, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE, Washington, DC 20590; or

By hand at the same address listed above.

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Walmart Gives Back

DeVante Dupree was the center of attention at a special celebration in Mexico, Maine last month. Something this 13-year old isn't used to. DeVante, who was born with cerebral palsy, was made an honorary Wal-Mart truck driver for the day. It's part of Wal-Mart's Heart program, where drivers give back in big way.

DeVante, who has had six operations in his lifetime, received gift cards, an Xbox and a gaming chair. But they saved the best for last. The drivers donated their time and money to purchase all of the items and a 12-hundred dollar adaptive bike for DeVante, who also received a stationary bike.

See the full story at: <http://www.wcsh6.com/news/article/254357/314/13-year-old-boy-with-cerebral-palsy-honored-in-Maine>

DOT Proposes to Reduce Trucking Paperwork

In a USA Today report on August 1, Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx proposed to reduce trucking paperwork to save the industry \$1.7 billion a year. The paperwork deals with inspection reports required before and after every trip a commercial truck makes, called Driver Vehicle Inspection Reports. The inspections on 4 million vehicles nationwide cover 20 items to check, in case anything needs repair. Under Foxx's proposed rule, truckers would be required to file only reports that detail defects, which are found in only 5% of inspections.

I-95 Whittier Bridge Update (Massachusetts)

Want to know what is going on with the construction on the Whittier Bridge, which crosses the Merrimack River in Massachusetts? Check the below link.....

<http://whittierbridge.mhd.state.ma.us/>

Trucker Trivia

- More than 80 percent of U.S. communities depend solely on trucking for delivery of their goods and commodities.
- One in every 19 Americans is employed by the trucking industry, including 3.1 million professional drivers.
- Trucks have overall crash rates less than half of other vehicles.
- Professional truckers drove more than 397.8 billion miles in 2010, more than double 25 years ago. Most individual long-haul drivers average 100,000 to 110,000 miles a year.
- The average daily run for an over-the-road driver is nearly 500 miles.
- The trucking industry paid \$36.5 billion in federal and state highway taxes in 2011 when it represented 9.8 percent of the vehicles on the road.
- The trucking industry consumed 52.8 billion gallons of diesel fuel and gasoline in 2012.

Source: American Trucking Association

Self Certification Deadline Approaching

On January 30, 2012 the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration began requiring CDL holders to identify if they conduct intrastate or interstate commerce and if they hold non-excepted or excepted status. Most truckers are classified under non-excepted interstate commerce and must furnish a current medical examiner's certificate to state agencies.

Those who do not need to have a license renewal, upgrade or transfer during the two-year implementation process still must self-certify and provide the certificate, often called a DOT card, by the 2014 deadline.

State agencies who do not receive self-certification, medical certificates and any required variance from CDL-Holders by the compliance deadline must notify drivers that they are no longer medically certified in non-excepted interstate commerce. State officials will remove all CDL privileges from their licenses.

Please do not take this lightly. See the following link for more info.

<http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/registration-licensing/cdl/cdl-general-info.aspx>

Interstate Truck Drivers Guide to Hours of Service:

http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/documents/hos/Interstate-Truck-Driver-Guide-to-HOS_508.pdf

Hours of service questions:

<http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/rules-regulations/rules-regulations.htm>

NHTSA Data Confirms Traffic Fatalities Increased In 2012

On November 14 the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) today released the 2012 Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) data indicating that highway deaths increased to 33,561 in 2012, which is 1,082 more fatalities than in 2011. The majority of the increase in deaths, 72 percent, occurred in the first quarter of the year. Most of those involved were motorcyclists and pedestrians. Highway deaths over the past 5 years remain at historic lows.

MPDA Calendar of Events – 2014 (As of 12-1-13)**December 2013**

- 8-14 **Wreaths Across America** – Departs from Harrington, Maine with escort to Arlington National Cemetery – contact Rob Fernald at 838-1074 or fernald2@aol.com (wreathsacrossamerica.org)
- 8 **Wreaths Across America** stops at Cabela's in Scarborough – contact Rob Fernald at 838-1074 or fernald2@aol.com (wreathsacrossamerica.org)

January

- 9 **MMTA Annual Banquet** – Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland – 5:00pm
contact Brain Parke at 423-4128 or bparke@mmta.com (www.mmta.com)
- 19 **MPDA Members Meeting** – Hannaford Trucking, S. Portland – 8:00am – contact Denis Litalien at dentruck@hotmail.com or 468-7373 (www.mpda.org)
- 27 **Trucking 4 Kids Convoy Meeting** – HomeTown Buffet, Maine Mall-6:00pm – contact Kevin Battle at trucking4kids@aol.com (www.mpda.org/trucking4kids)

March

- 16 Tentative **MPDA Members Meeting** – Location to be announced – contact Denis Litalien at dentruck@hotmail.com or 468-7373 (www.mpda.org)
- 27-29 **Mid-America Trucking Show** - Kentucky Exposition Center, Louisville, KY – contact (www.truckingshow.com)

April

- 16 **Dick Dolloff Memorial Student Driving Competition** – Augusta Civic Center – contact Chris Broderick at broderickc@westbrookschoools.org or 671-2344

May

- 16 Tentative **Truck Driving Championships Set Up Day** – Dysart's Truck Terminal, Hermon - contact Randy DeVault at 623-4128 or randyd@mmta.com (www.mmta.com)
- 17 Tentative **Maine State Truck Driving Championships** – Dysart's Truck Terminal, Hermon - contact Randy DeVault at 623-4128 or randyd@mmta.com (www.mmta.com)
- 17 **Professional Technician's Skills Competition** – EMCC, Bangor - - contact Randy DeVault at 623-4128 or randyd@mmta.com (www.mmta.com)
- 18 **MPDA Members Meeting** – Location to be announced – contact Denis Litalien at dentruck@hotmail.com or 468-7373 (www.mpda.org)

June

- 12-16 **Trek Across Maine / Lung Assn. Rally**, Sunday River – contact Denis Litalien at 468-7373 or dentruck@hotmail.com (www.lungne.org)

August

- 9-13 **ATA National Truck Driving Championships** – Pittsburgh, PA - contact Randy DeVault at 623-4128 or randyd@mmta.com

September

- 6 **Charity Challenge Set-up Day** – Brockton, Mass. – contact Denis Litalien at 468-7373 or dentruck@hotmail.com (www.nucharitychallenge.org)
- 7 **16th Annual Northeast Professional Truck Drivers Charity Challenge** – Brockton, Mass.- contact Fred Schenk at 978-453-3632 or charitychallenge@comcast.net (www.nucharitychallenge.org)
- 14-20 **National Truck Driver Appreciation Week**
- 15-17 **National Professional Technicians Skills Competition** – Pittsburgh, Pa. - contact Randy DeVault at 623-4128 or randyd@mmta.com
- 27 **Trucking 4 Kids Convoy Set Up Day** – HomeTown Buffet Rest., Maine Mall- 9:00am - contact Kevin Battle at trucking4kids@aol.com or 838-1074 (www.mpda.org/trucking4kids)
- 28 **Maine Trucking 4 Kids Convoy**, 7:00am to 4:00pm – Scarborough Downs, Scarborough - contact Kevin Battle at trucking4kids@aol.com or 838-1074 (www.mpda.org/trucking4kids)

October

- ?? **MPDA 25th Anniversary Banquet**

May They Rest in Peace

Charles F. Pooler, better known as 'Frank,' lifelong resident of Scarborough, passed away on March 11, 2013, at the age of 84. Frank served in the Navy Reserves before driving for **H. P. Hood** for a number of years and was the State Champion in Straight Truck class in 1984.

George "Joe" Hutchins, who founded of **Hutchins Trucking Company** in 1960 passed away in March at the age of 85. Joe served at President of Maine Motor Transport Association

**Maine Professional Drivers Association
Officers - 2014-2015**

- Denis Litalien – President
- Jim Costa – Vice-President
- Alan Paradis – Treasurer
- Mona Costa - Secretary
- George Colby – Legislative Officer
- Ron Round – Publicity Officer
- Rob Fernald – Membership Officer
- Randy DeVault - TDC Officer
- George Colby – Immediate Past President

Diverging Diamond Intersection

Want to see the latest in highway construction ideas? Have you ever heard of a Diverging Diamond Intersection? This is a new type of interchange being tested in Missouri and has been used in France. The FHWA is recommending innovative intersection designs to increase capacity, decrease congestion, and minimize the cost of new infrastructure.

This new type of intersection does not have any left turns that must clear opposing traffic so the design can improve traffic movement with more green time. It will move traffic faster, reduce congestion, and increase safety.

Go to Missouri's State DOT website for info and a diagram at the following link: <http://www.modot.org/stlouis/links/DivergingDiamondInterchange.htm>

Also, the following YouTube video link gives drivers an idea of what it's like to navigate the diverging diamond interchange currently under construction at the Interstate 270 and Dorsett interchange in Missouri..

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JlypFKBz4YI>

2012-2013 MPDA Board of Directors

- President:** George Colby
- Vice President:** Michael Coulombe
- Treasurer:** Alan Paradis
- Secretary:** Denis Litalien (Interim)
- Membership Officer:** Erik Barden
- T.D.C. Officer:** Randy DeVault
- Legislative Officer:** David Littlefield
- Publicity Officer:** Roger Wilcox
- All Past Presidents:** Dave Stuart, Dick Brown, Fred Thompson, Doug Pickard, Ron Hutchins, John Waisanen, Alan Paradis, Denis Litalien

MPDA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting courtesy, safety and professionalism in the field of commercial driving.

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"Behind the Wheel"

Our newsletter is published quarterly for our members and advertisers. Articles of interest to members, advertising copy, inquires, payments, change of address, comments, and newsletter submissions should be mailed to:

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