LABS
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NEWSLETTER

Quarterly | October 2026 | Issue 28



Dear Readers,

Welcome to LABS' quarter three (Q3) update, covering July through September 2026.

It was a busy and productive third quarter; our operations stayed strong across all four countries. The last few months focused on assessments, safety trainings, and follow-up visits – all while sharing helpful best practices with factories and suppliers.

Our engagement with governments and industry bodies continues to grow. One highlight was Cambodia's 5th Annual Gender Platform, which welcomed 173 participants from more than 100 organizations, including the Minister of Women's Affairs and senior leadership from the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training. Other spotlights included providing input on Cambodia's OSH Draft Law, and submitting a draft MoU to AGTI in Indonesia to make our safety methodology and standards accessible to a wide range of member factories, from MSMEs to large-scale manufacturers.

On the operational front, several fire incidents reported during Q3 were linked to electrical faults or the storage of combustible materials. These occurrences underscore the critical importance of our ongoing commitment to fire, electrical, and structural safety.

Thank you for your continued partnership. We hope you find this update insightful and welcome your questions and feedback.

PROGRESS SO FAR

738
Factories onboarded
India: **218**
Vietnam: **285**
Cambodia: **148**
Indonesia: **87**

713
Assessments conducted
India: **208**
Vietnam: **280**
Cambodia: **140**
Indonesia: **85**

1,692
Safety training conducted
India: **415**
Vietnam: **772**
Cambodia: **315**
Indonesia: **190**

1,418,482
Workers reached
India: **300,339**
Vietnam: **585,196**
Cambodia: **270,127**
Indonesia: **262,820**

272
Factories graduated
India: **87**
Vietnam: **144**
Cambodia: **28**
Indonesia: **13**

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Improving field level impact

Factory graduations

17

Factories graduated during the 3rd quarter (Q3) of 2026.

	Graduated
India	5
Vietnam	7
Cambodia	3
Indonesia	2

Assessments

42

Factory was assessed in Indonesia during the 3rd quarter (Q3) of 2026.

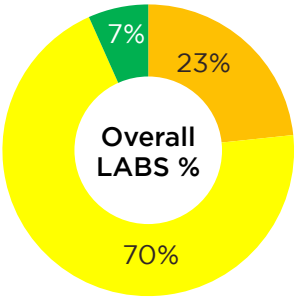
	Assessments	QA Assessments	Total
India	15	0	1
Vietnam	10	0	1
Cambodia	8	1	2
Indonesia	9	0	0

Common assessment findings

Structural Safety

- Uneven floor-load distribution on suspended floors
- Exposed reinforcements on roof slab
- Cracks on structural and non-structural members (e.g., concrete beams, columns, and walls)
- Absence of documentation (e.g., structural diagrams, geo-technical reports, floor-load plans, and soil reports)

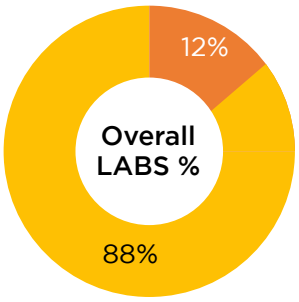
Assessment	India	Vietnam	Cambodia	Indonesia
Red/Amber	-	-	-	-
Amber	1	-	-	5
Yellow	12	-	8	4
Green	2	-	-	-
Total	**15**	**-**	**8**	**9**



Fire Safety

- Rolling shutters installed on exit doors
- Fire-rated doors and fire-rated enclosures lacking
- Centralized fire-alarm system unavailable
- Insufficient emergency lights on escape pathways
- Overhead signages missing on escape paths

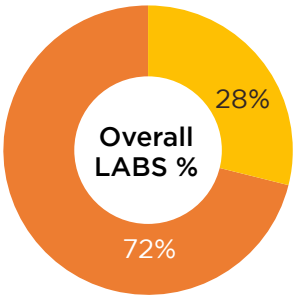
Assessment	India	Vietnam	Cambodia	Indonesia
Red/Amber	-	-	1	3
Amber	15	-	7	6
Yellow	-	-	-	-
Green	-	-	-	-
Total	**15**	**-**	**8**	**9**



Electrical Safety

- Heavy lint and dust inside switchboards/distribution boards (DBs)
- Earthing to DBs, MS roof truss, transformer fencing, and battery bank racks not provided
- Lightning-protection system not supplied
- Flammable coating inside distribution panels
- Numerous hotspots with high temperatures ranging from 73°C to 120°C

Assessment	India	Vietnam	Cambodia	Indonesia
Red/Amber	11	-	5	7
Amber	4	-	3	2
Yellow	-	-	-	-
Green	-	-	-	-
Total	**15**	**-**	**8**	**9**



"The LABS program has enhanced workplace safety, lives of workers and protecting factory assets, thereby creating a highly safe working environment. LABS has effectively assisted numerous factories in mitigating risks associated with fire hazards, electrical systems, and structural safety issues."

Sor Somayya, DAESEUNG-CAMBO CO., LTD



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Remediations

India

Data comprises 132 factories where 684 follow-up visits were conducted

Fire Safety:

- **94%** of the factories installed emergency lights
- **98%** of the factories removed temporary obstacles on evacuation pathways
- **94%** of the factories installed illuminated exit signages
- **93%** of the factories removed locking mechanisms from exit doors

Electrical Safety:

- **95%** of the factories removed lint and dust from electrical panels and DBs
- **97%** of the factories reduced the high temperatures in electrical panels and DBs
- **93%** of the factories provided earthing connections for the electrical components

Structural Safety:

- **86%** of the factories mended cracks in beams and columns
- **84%** of the factories removed the corrosion in non-engineered structures (such as MS Shed)
- **83%** of the factories eliminated the wall dampness

Vietnam

Data comprises 221 factories where 1,186 follow-up visits were conducted

Fire Safety:

- **96%** of the factories installed emergency lights
- **100%** of the factories removed temporary obstacles on evacuation pathways
- **94%** of the factories installed illuminated exit signages
- **98%** of the factories removed locking mechanisms from exit doors

Electrical Safety:

- **94%** of the factories removed lint and dust from electrical panels and DBs
- **99%** of the factories reduced the high temperatures in electrical panels and DBs
- **94%** of the factories provided earthing connections for the electrical components

Structural Safety:

- **89%** of the factories mended cracks in beams and columns
- **87%** of the factories removed the corrosion in non-engineered structures (such as MS Shed)
- **82%** of the factories eliminated the wall dampness

Cambodia

Data comprises 74 factories where 548 follow-up visits were conducted

Fire Safety:

- **91%** of the factories installed emergency lights
- **98%** of the factories removed temporary obstacles on evacuation pathways
- **86%** of the factories installed illuminated exit signages
- **93%** of the factories removed locking mechanisms from exit doors

Electrical Safety:

- **85%** of the factories removed lint and dust from electrical panels and DBs
- **81%** of the factories reduced the high temperatures in electrical panels and DBs
- **77%** of the factories provided earthing connections for the electrical components

Structural Safety:

- **76%** of the factories mended cracks in beams and columns
- **81%** of the factories removed the corrosion in non-engineered structures
- **70%** of the factories eliminated the wall dampness

Indonesia

Data comprises 67 factories where 374 follow-up visits were conducted

Fire Safety:

- **56%** of the factories installed emergency lights
- **80%** of the factories removed temporary obstacles on evacuation pathways
- **57%** of the factories installed illuminated exit signages
- **65%** of the factories removed locking mechanisms from exit doors

Electrical Safety:

- **84%** of the factories removed lint and dust from electrical panels and DBs
- **69%** of the factories reduced the high temperatures in electrical panels and DBs
- **50%** of the factories provided earthing connections for the electrical components

Structural Safety:

- **46%** of the factories mended cracks in beams and columns
- **73%** of the factories removed the corrosion in non-engineered structures
- **50%** of the factories eliminated the wall dampness

Safety Training

90
Safety Training
sessions were conducted in Q2, 2026.

2,215
People Trained

There were 90 Safety Trainings conducted during Q3 with 2,215 representatives from factory management, the OHS Committee, HR and maintenance departments, and workers from the production area.

	Training	People trained
India	16	391
Vietnam	29	660
Cambodia	22	603
Indonesia	23	561

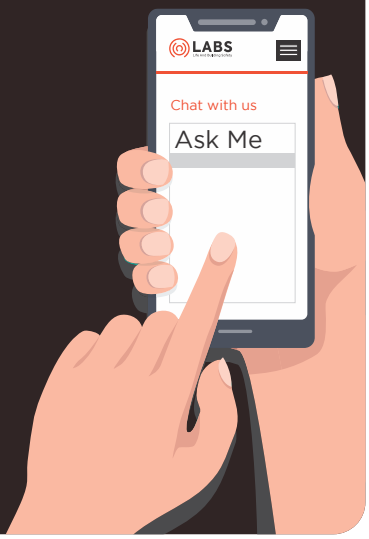




REPORTING PLATFORM UPDATES

LABS has a toll-free Helpline (in Vietnam, India, and Cambodia) and a LABS Chat platform (in Vietnam, India, Cambodia, and Indonesia) to enable workers to raise their concerns of unsafe working conditions. Six non-LABS cases were reported in Q3:

- **India:** One case involved a manager's behavior toward female workers and mandatory Sunday work
- **Cambodia:** Four cases related to workplace safety and HR issues, including a security guard bringing a knife onto factory premises, supervisor intimidation, an attendance error, and a possible concern about excessive workplace heat
- **Indonesia**: One case of poor ventilation in a basement work area



Key Outreach and Events

Vietnam

Meetings with Better Work Vietnam and Fair Wear Foundation

August 26–31, 2026

LABS met with Better Work Vietnam to coordinate the country update approach and explore potential support for factories in Vietnam. In a separate session, LABS collaborated with Fair Wear Foundation to align strategies for the fourth quarter of 2026 and provide updates on LABS programs in Vietnam.

International Manufacturing Congress (VIIF)

September 9, 2026

The LABS Vietnam team participated in the International Manufacturing Congress and connected with key industry stakeholders to strengthen our presence in the region.

Vietnam Footwear Summit

September 16–17, 2026

Participation in the Vietnam Footwear Summit allowed for the expansion of the LABS industry network through strategic discussions with key partners.

Cambodia

Engagement with Government on OSH Policy and Standards

July 9–September 10, 2026

LABS senior factory coordinators provided critical input during the second Tripartite Consultative Workshop on the OSH Draft Law. To support capacity building on the LABS Standard, five members of the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training's Department of Occupational Safety and Health joined a LABS' factory follow-up visit. Additionally, the team participated in a Ministry workshop on factory classification and a seminar on construction law presided over by Deputy Prime Minister SAY Samal.

Good Practices Sharing Session

July 21, 2026

LABS hosted its third good practices sharing session in Khmer, bringing together over 60 participants from more than 50 factories to exchange successful safety strategies.

Public-Private Sector Dialogue

August 6, 2026

Attendance at the third Public-Private Sector Dialogue breakfast briefing facilitated important conversations between the Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC) and various chambers and associations.

Stakeholder Engagements and Partnerships

August 21–September 8, 2026

Engagements were held with several key stakeholders to explore new collaboration opportunities, including the U.S. Embassy's Commercial Specialist TRY Sina and Economic Officer Zachary Le Vene[LJM2.1], WRAP Compliance Country Representative Menghun Huy, and UNDP Resident Representative Enrico Gaveglia.

5th Annual Gender Platform

September 22, 2026

This landmark event brought together 173 participants from over 100 organizations and was opened by H.E. Dr. ING Kantha Phavi, Minister of Women's Affairs. Co-hosted by a coalition of partners (including, but not limited to, GIZ FABRIC Cambodia, CARE Cambodia, ILO Better Factories Cambodia, the Cambodian Garment Training Institute, RISE, the Cooperation Committee for Cambodia, the European Chamber of Commerce Garment & Manufacturing Committee, and the Responsible Business Hub Cambodia) and closed by H.E. SOVANN Vannaroth, Permanent Secretary of State, Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training, the platform highlighted the importance of gender equality and human capital in the sector.

Read more: https://labsinitiative.com/news_article/cambodias-gft-sector-puts-gender-equality-and-human-capital-at-the-centre-of-ldc-graduation-preparations/

Meetings with ILO Better Factories Cambodia (BFC)

September 22–28, 2026

A productive working lunch was held with the ILO BFC program manager and team leader to discuss future collaboration. A checklist comparison is underway with a sharing session planned for mid-October. A follow-up meeting introduced IDH Solutions to the ILO BFC program manager.

Indonesia

Meeting with BPBD DKI Jakarta

July 7, 2026

LABS country manager met with Rian Sarsono, Head of Prevention at the Jakarta Regional Disaster Management Agency to discuss publishing LABS safety training materials through the agency to increase factory reach.

Partnership with Indonesian Garment and Textile Association (AGTI) – Indonesia

July 13–September 24, 2026

To support factories of all sizes—from MSMEs to large manufacturers—LABS proposed making electrical, fire, and structural safety standards available on the AGTI website. Following an agreement in principle from Executive Director IG Sigit Murwito, a draft MoU was submitted covering the handover of methodologies, introductory workshops, and a two-year partnership term.

Engagement with United States' Affiliated Business Bodies

July 24–August 11, 2026

LABS country manager engaged with Fidhiza Purisma, Commercial Officer at the U.S. Commercial Service, to explore how LABS can support U.S. brands sourcing from Indonesia and complement existing compliance requirements. Outreach was initiated to Donna Priadi, Managing Director of AmCham Indonesia, and Nugraheni Utami, Chief Country Representative of the US-ASEAN Business Council (USABC).

National Pre-Convention on OSH Fire Response Competency Standard

August 5, 2026

LABS was invited by the Ministry of Manpower to contribute to the National Pre-Convention on the draft Indonesian National Work Competency Standard (RSKKNI) for OSH Fire Response.

AGTI Forum on the National Textile Industry

August 6, 2026

The team attended this forum to discuss building a competitive and sustainable national textile industry, featuring insights from the Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs on trade agreements and the Ministry of MSMEs on strengthening MSMEs in the textile sector.

Meeting with AHKKI

September 1, 2026

A meeting with Pak Sahat Silalahi, Deputy Chairman of the Indonesian Association of Industrial Hygiene and Occupational Safety (AHKKI), focused on strengthening their Safety Management Systems, gathering broader data on the people, tools, and materials that shape production and involving factory OSH committees (P2K3) in driving lasting operational change.

Re-engagement with BNPB

September 24, 2026

A meeting with the National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB) reaffirmed a strong partnership following the passing of Mr. Zaenal Arifin, Director of Disaster Mitigation and a valued member of the LABS National Stakeholder Committee. Details of the upcoming November NSC meeting were shared to ensure the incoming Director can attend.

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Incidents in Apparel Sector

India

- **September 13, 2026:** A fire originating in the basement of a sportswear factory and warehouse in Swaroop Nagar, Delhi engulfed the building. One person was injured and five others were hospitalized for smoke inhalation.
- **September 18, 2026:** A fire broke out on the fourth floor of a garment factory in Noida, Uttar Pradesh, reportedly caused by an electrical short circuit. No casualties reported.

Vietnam

- **July 13, 2026:** A fire broke out in a footwear-factory warehouse and spread rapidly due to the presence of paper, fuel, oil, and other combustible materials; no injuries reported.
- **July 22, 2026:** A fire occurred in the raw-material warehouse at a garment factory. Emergency teams brought the blaze under control within about 90 minutes; no injuries reported.

Cambodia

- **July 9, 2026:** A late-night fire at a garment factory damaged 250 sewing machines before being extinguished within an hour; no injuries reported.
- **July 11, 2026:** A fire broke out at a foam-manufacturing factory.
- **July 27, 2026:** A blaze ignited at a factory located within a mixed-use building in Takhmao, Kandal Province, after sparks from contractors' welding work sparked a carton storage area.
- **July 29, 2026:** The cause of a fire at a battery-recycling factory in Kampong Speu Province is under investigation.
- **August 25, 2026:** A fire at a textile-waste warehouse of a shoe factory in Takeo Province is under investigation.
- **September 14, 2026:** A fire was reported at a factory in Kampong Speu Province; the cause is currently under investigation.

Indonesia

- **August 7, 2026:** A fire at a textile factory in Purworejo, Central Java, reportedly caused by an electrical short circuit, spread through the production building and hospitalized three people.
- **August 15, 2026:** A fire destroyed a 2,000 m^2 warehouse at a former textile factory in Bogor. Losses are estimated at IDR 1 billion; no casualties reported.
- **August 24, 2026:** A fire at a textile factory in Kediri, East Java, caused losses estimated at IDR 500 million; no injuries reported.
- **September 13, 2026:** A fire at a zipper and textile manufacturer in Tangerang, suspected to have been caused by an electrical short circuit in a warehouse under renovation, took over six hours to extinguish; no casualties reported.

Annexures

Factory Details

India

Safety Trainings

1. Peacock Apparels
2. Best Tech Clothing PVT LTD
3. Gokaldas Exports LTD – Unit VI
4. Arvind Limited Bommasandra
5. AHP Apparel PVT LTD – Unit 60
6. AHP Apparel PVT LTD – Unit 47
7. S.P. Apparels Limited Thekkalur
8. Sundar Sons (India) Exports
9. ESS ENN Exports
10. CHRISTY APPARELS PVT LTD
11. Dhana Textiles LLP – Unit 2
12. Tirupur Jersey PVT LTD
13. Alagendira Exports

Assessment

1. Christy Apparels PVT LTD
2. AHP APPAREL PVT LTD – UNIT 60
3. AHP APPAREL PVT LTD – UNIT 47
4. Tirupur Jersey PVT LTD
5. S.P. Apparels LTD Thekkalur
6. Shahi Exports PVT LTD – Unit A7
7. Sundar Sons (India) Exports
8. Shahi Exports PVT LTD – Unit 28
9. Everblue Apparels Limited – Unit I
10. Akruthi Apparel
11. Classic Apparels Fashions – Unit II
12. KPR Sugars and Apparels LTD
13. Everblue Apparels Limited – Unit II
14. GOLDEN SEAMS INDUSTRIES PVT LTD
15. Quantum Knits

QA Assessment

1. Shahi Exports PVT LTD – A7

Vietnam

Assessment

1. In Kyung Vina Co Ltd
2. Hoa Sen 2 Garment Co Ltd
3. Minh Anh Tan Ky Garment Joint Stock Company
4. Lixin Textiles (Vietnam) Co Ltd
5. Nghi Loc Garment Factory
6. Thagaco International Investment JSC
7. Bangjie Knitting (Vietnam) Co Ltd
8. Hoai An Garment Joint Stock Company
9. Junzu Viet Nam Knitting Company Limited (VF)
10. OMJ Shoes Vietnam Co Ltd (WM)

Safety Trainings

1. Chi Dat Garment CO LTD
2. TNG Investment and Trading Joint Stock Company – Vo Nhai Garment Branch
3. HA THANH FASHION INCORPORATION
4. Thuan Phuong Embroideries Garments CO LTD
5. IN KYUNG VINA CO LTD
6. JASAN SOCKS VIETNAM CO LTD
7. Haianhtex Joint Stock Company – Factory No. 2
8. ITAS MARS INTIMATES FASHION CO LTD
9. REGINA MIRACLE INTERNATIONAL VIETNAM CO LTD (Factory A)
10. Araviet Company Limited
11. Thien Son Ha Nam CO LTD
12. HOAI SON GARMENT LIMITED COMPANY
13. Son Ha Hue Company Limited
14. Hoa Tho Textile – Garment Joint Stock Corporation
15. KIM BINH GARMENT CO LTD
16. BAI SHENG SPORTS GOODS COMPANY LIMITED
17. Freetrend Industrial (Vietnam) CO LTD
18. EVER GREAT INTERNATIONAL COMPANY LIMITED
19. NAMYANG DELTA CO LTD
20. HOAI NHON GARMENT JOINT STOCK COMPANY
21. MINH ANH TAN KY GARMENT JOINT STOCK COMPANY
22. HOAI AN GARMENT JOINT STOCK COMPANY
23. Hoa Sen Phu Tho Garment CO LTD
24. TNG Investment and Trading JSC – Dai Tu Garment Branch
25. JS VINA CO LTD
26. Thao Uyen Garment Manufacturing & Trading CO LTD
27. BRANCH OF VIET NAM GOODFAITH INVEST AND DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED IN PHU THO
28. VINA KYUNG SEUNG
29. TIEN SON THANH HOA GROUP JOINT STOCK COMPANY

Re-Assessments

1. ARAVIET Company Limited
2. PHU Thinh Export Garment Joint Stock Company (Rejoin) (Re-assessment)

“The monitoring visits keep us honest. Every few months someone comes back to check our progress on the corrective action plan, and that’s pushed us to finish things we might have let slide. Our workers can see the changes happening, and that matters to them.”



A.M Muslim, Manager compliance, PT Blue Rose Narado

Cambodia

Assessments

1. Hengfeng Outdoors (Cambodia) CO LTD
2. Yeetex Industry CO LTD
3. DongSen Footwear (Cambodia) CO LTD
4. Knitwise Creation (Cambodia) CO LTD
5. T.S. Sport (Cambodia) CO LTD
6. Sincere Season (Cambodia) CO LTD
7. Victory Footwear (Cambodia) CO LTD
8. Brightness (Cambodia) Garment Factory CO LTD

Safety Trainings

1. New Wide (Cambodia) Garment CO LTD
2. GG Fashion (Cambodia) CO LTD
3. CB Kingtop Fashion Garment CO LTD
4. Quality Textiles CO LTD
5. Kai Neng Leather Products (Cambodia) CO LTD
6. Outdoor Gear (Cambodia) CO LTD
7. Liefeng Outdoors (Cambodia) CO LTD
8. Supercan (Cambodia) CO LTD
9. Zhejiang Hengfeng Top Leisure (Cambodia) CO LTD
10. Hengfeng Outdoors (Cambodia) CO LTD
11. Prestige Garment CO LTD
12. Capital Garment CO LTD
13. Jade Sun Garment (Cambodia) CO LTD
14. T&K Garment Industry CO LTD
15. JH Garment (Cambodia) CO LTD
16. Yeetex Industry CO LTD
17. Lin Wen Chih Sunbow Enterprises CO LTD
18. Nyan Kids (Cambodia) LTD – 2
19. Nyan Kids (Cambodia) LTD
20. Nyan Kids (Cambodia) LTD – 1
21. New Wide Apparel CO LTD
22. Fortress International CO LTD

Re-Assessments

1. F.U.G. Garment (Cambodia) CO LTD
2. Goodmate (Cambodia) Headwears CO LTD
3. Shoe Premier II (Cambodia) CO LTD – Branch

Indonesia

Assessments

1. PT Glory Industrial Semarang – Sragen
2. PT Hansoll Indo Klaten
3. PT Chutex International Indonesia
4. PT Minu Garment Sukses
5. PT SESHIN SRAGEN INDONESIA
6. PT PURNAMA ASIH SURYA INDONESIA
7. PT Ungaran Indah Busana
8. PT BusanaRemaja Agracipta
9. PT Cartini Lingerie Indonesia – 2

Safety Trainings

1. PT Sunwoo Garment Indonesia
2. PT Tiga Kyung Seung Garmen
3. PT Star Fashion Ungaran
4. PT YEON HEUNG MEGA SARI
5. PT FORMOSA BAG INDONESIA
6. PT Liebra Permana – Semarang
7. PT Liebra Permana
8. PT Dasan Pan Pacific Indonesia
9. PT YONGJIN JAVASUKA GARMENT
10. PT Glory Industrial Semarang – Sragen
11. PT SOLVE IT
12. PT Sam Kyung Jaya Garments
13. PT MINU GARMENT SUKSES
14. PT Chutex International Indonesia
15. PT Prima Sejati Sejahtera
16. PT SESHIN SRAGEN INDONESIA
17. PT Kanindo Makmur Jaya (Factory 2)
18. PT Pungkook Indonesia One (Grobogan)
19. PT BUSANAREMAJA AGRACIPTA
20. PT Busanaremaja Agracipta (Unit 3)
21. PT Hansoll Indo Klaten
22. PT Glory Industrial Semarang
23. PT YOUNGHYUN STAR

QA Assessment

1. PT Minu Garment Sukses

Re-Assessments

1. PT BUSANA INDAH GLOBAL
2. PT LEETEX GARMENT INDONESIA

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