NORTH CAROLINA REGISTER

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PUBLISHED BY

The Office of Administrative Hearings Rules Division 1711 New Hope Church Road Raleigh, NC 27609 Telephone 984-236-1850 Fax 984-236-1947

Melissa Owens Lassiter, Director Brian Liebman, Codifier of Rules Julie B. Eddins, Publications Coordinator

PROPOSED RULES

Note from the Codifier: The notices published in this Section of the NC Register include the text of proposed rules. The agency must accept written comments on any proposed rules for at least 60 days from the publication date, or until the date of any public hearing, whichever is longer. If the agency adopts a rule that differs substantially from a prior published notice, the agency must publish the text of the proposed different rule and accept comment on the proposed different rule for 60 days. Statutory reference: G.S. 150B-21.2.

TITLE 14B - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Notice is hereby given in accordance with G.S. 150B-21.2 that the Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission intends to readopt with substantive changes the rules cited as 14B NCAC 15C .0401-.0404, .0501-.0505, .0601-.0607.

Link to agency website pursuant to G.S. 150B-19.1(c): abc.nc.gov

Proposed Effective Date: February 1, 2026

Public Hearing:

40:07

Date: November 5, 2025 **Time:** 10:00 a.m.

Location: NC ABC Commission, Hearing Room, 400 East Tryon

Road, Raleigh, NC 27610

Reason for Proposed Action: *Periodic review and readoption pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A.*

Comments may be submitted to: Renee C. Metz, 400 East Tryon Road, Raleigh, NC 27610, (919)948-7919, email rules@abc.nc.gov.

Comment period ends: December 1, 2025.

Procedure for Subjecting a Proposed Rule to Legislative Review: If an objection is not resolved prior to the adoption of the rule, a person may also submit written objections to the Rules Review Commission after the adoption of the Rule. If the Rules Review Commission receives written and signed objections after the adoption of the Rule in accordance with G.S. 150B-21.3(b2) from 10 or more persons clearly requesting review by the legislature and the Rules Review Commission approves the rule, the rule will become effective as provided in G.S. 150B-21.3(b1). The Commission will receive written objections until 5:00 p.m. on the day following the day the Commission approves the rule. The Commission will receive those objections by mail, delivery service, hand delivery, or facsimile transmission. If you have any further questions concerning the submission of objections to the Commission, please call a Commission staff attorney at 984-236-1850.

Fiscal	impact. Does any rule or combination of rules in thi
notice	create an economic impact? Check all that apply.
	State funds affected
	Local funds affected
	Substantial economic impact (≥\$1,000,000)
	Approved by OSBM
\boxtimes	No fiscal note required

CHAPTER 15 - ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL COMMISSION

SUBCHAPTER 15C - INDUSTRY MEMBERS: RETAIL/INDUSTRY MEMBER RELATIONSHIPS: SHIP CHANDLERS: AIR CARRIERS: FUEL ALCOHOL

SECTION .0400 - STANDARDS OF IDENTITY FOR WINE: CONTAINERS

14B NCAC 15C .0401 APPLICATION OF STANDARDS

All wines <u>Wine</u> produced, imported, bottled, or offered for sale in this State shall meet the standards of identity prescribed as of April 1, 1986, in Subpart C, Part 4, Chapter 1, Title 27 of the Code of Federal Regulations which is incorporated herein by reference and includes subsequent amendments. as identified in Subpart C of 27 CFR Part 4, incorporated by reference including any subsequent amendments and editions. The provisions of the CFR may be accessed for free at https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-27/chapter-I/subchapter-A/part-4/subpart-C.

The Commission has a copy of those regulations available for inspection at the Commission's principal office. Copies are available at the "actual cost" as defined in G.S. 132-6.2(b) for making the copies and the mailing cost if applicable. The Commission shall provide its "actual cost" on the Commission's website. Persons requesting copies of the above documents shall make payment by certified check, cashier's check or money order to the Commission prior to receiving any copies of the above documents.

Authority G.S. 18B-100; 18B-206(a); 18B-207.

14B NCAC 15C .0402 PROHIBITED PRACTICES

- (a) The production, importation or sale within this State of any product as or under the designation of wine that fails to conform to the standards prescribed in these Rules, or of any imitation or substandard wine is prohibited. Industry members are prohibited from producing, importing, or selling in this State wine, or a product designated under a wine category, that is imitation, substandard, or fails to conform to the standards of these Rules.
- (b) Imitation Wine. Imitation wine includes:
 - (1) any wine containing synthetic materials;
 - (2) any wine made from a mixture of water with residues remaining containing residue after thorough pressing of grapes, fruit fruit, or other agricultural products;
 - (3) any class or type of wine, the taste, aroma, color or other characteristics of which have been acquired in whole or in part by treatment with methods or materials of any kind, if the taste, aroma, color or other characteristics of normal wines of any such class or type are acquired

without that treatment; wine treated to acquire the taste, aroma, color, or characteristics of a class or type of wine that would occur without treatment; or

(4) any wine made from must concentrated at any time to more than 80 degrees (Balling).

(c) Substandard wine includes:

- (1) any wine having with a volatile acidity acidity, calculated as acetic acid and exclusive of sulphur dioxide, in excess of the maximum prescribed therefor established in these Rules;
- (2) any wine for which no that does not have a maximum volatile acidity is prescribed in these Rules having a shall have a maximum volatile acidity, calculated as acetic acid and exclusive of sulphur dioxide, in excess acidity of 0.14 gram per 100 cubic centimeters (20 degrees Centigrade):
- (3) any wine for which with a standard of identity is prescribed in these Rules that through disease, decomposition or otherwise fails to have the composition, eolor and clean vinous taste color, taste, and aroma of normal wines conforming to that standard;
- (4) wine of any class or type containing added water water, or a sugar and water solution solution, in excess of the quantities expressly authorized for standard wine made from the same kind or kinds of materials as prescribed in these Rules;
- (5) any wine containing monochloracetic acid or any other substance or preservative prohibited by the United States Food and Drug Administration or the Federal Alcoholic Tax Unit; United States Department of the Treasury Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau; or
- (6) any wine containing deleterious, harmful harmful, or impure substances or elements or an improper balance of elements.

(d) Coined Names

- (1) Mixture of Wines. The sale in this State of wines identified on labels or in advertisements by a type or brand designation that implies mixtures of wines for which standards of identity are established in these Rules, or which identifying type or brand designation resembles an established wine type name such as "Angelica," "Madeira," "Muscatel," "Claret," "Burgundy," etc., is prohibited.
- (2) Combinations of Alcoholic Beverages. The sale in this State of wines or combinations of wine and other alcoholic beverages that contain on the labels statements such as "whiskey wine," "rum and wine," "gin and wine," "beer and wine" or similar combinations is prohibited.

Industry members are prohibited from identifying wine on labels or in advertisements as a mixture of wine with other types of alcoholic beverages or as a mixture of wines that have standards of identity established in Subpart C of 27 CFR Part 4, incorporated by reference including any subsequent amendments and editions.

Authority G.S. 18B-100; 18B-206(a); 18B-207.

14B NCAC 15C .0403 CONTAINERS

- (a) Unsealed Container Prohibited. Except as permitted by Rule .0307 of this Subchapter, the sale of Industry members shall not sell wine in any an unsealed container, except as authorized by 14B NCAC 15C .0307, any a container originally designed created for a product other than wine, or in any a container the whose design or shape of which would tend to mislead the consumer as to the nature of regarding the contents is prohibited.
- (b) Distinguishing Mark Different from Retailer. The sale of wine in containers that have the blown, branded, or burned name or other distinguishing mark of any person engaged in business as a wine producer, importer, wholesaler, or bottler or any other person different from the person whose name is required to appear on the brand label by Rule .0304 of this Subchapter is prohibited. Industry members shall not sell wine in containers that have, in addition to the information required by 14B NCAC 15C .0304, the blown, branded, or burned name or distinguishing mark of a wine producer, importer, wholesaler, or bottler.

Authority G.S. 18B-206; 18B-207; 18B-1001.

14B NCAC 15C .0404 SEIZURE OF SUBSTANDARD WINE

Alcohol law enforcement agents or officers may seize and dispose of Imitation, substandard imitation, substandard, or misbranded wine offered for sale in violation of the ABC laws may be seized and disposed of. laws.

Authority G.S. 18B-100; 18B-206(a); 18B-207; 18B-503.

SECTION .0500 - INDUSTRY MEMBERS: GENERAL PROVISIONS

14B NCAC 15C .0501 INSPECTION OF PREMISES

Any A storage facility, warehouse warehouse, or office area where malt beverages or wine are stored or alcoholic beverages are manufactured or stored, or where records of purchases, sales sales, or deliveries are maintained shall be considered maintained, are part of the licensed premises premises, and industry members shall be made make the entire premises available for inspection as provided in G.S. 18B-502.

Authority G.S. 18B-100; 18B-207; 18B-502.

14B NCAC 15C .0502 RECORD KEEPING REQUIREMENTS: SALES TICKETS

(a) In addition to records required to be kept by the North Carolina Department of Revenue, all industry members shall maintain on the licensed premises a copy of every copies of original sales ticket or receipt that relates tickets or receipts relating to sales of alcoholic beverage products, equipment, advertising specialty items, or advertising novelties. Copies shall

be in <u>paper form or</u>, if kept in electronic form, available to <u>print</u> on paper. the following form:

- (1) paper; or
- (2) electronic, so long as it can be printed on paper.
 (b) Sales Ticket Required. Wholesalers or their salesmen shall, at the time of each sale and delivery of malt beverages or wine to a retailer, provide the following information on every retail sales ticket the following information: tickets:
 - (1) date of sale;
 - (2) name of establishment;
 - (3) location;
 - (4) quantity of each brand of malt beverages or wine sold;
 - (5) unit price;
 - (6) total price;
 - (7) amount received;
 - (8) invoice number; and
 - (9) route, if applicable. route number or name.
- (c) All sales tickets shall be endorsed at the time of sale by the retailer or authorized agent and by the wholesaler with the usual signature of each. At the time of sale, the retailer or authorized agent and the wholesaler's salesman shall endorse the sales tickets by signature.
- (d) All sales tickets shall be retained by the wholesaler for a period of three years and shall be filed alphabetically, by sales route, or chronologically by date of sale. Wholesalers shall retain sales tickets for three years filed alphabetically, by sales route, or by date of sale.

Authority G.S. 18B-100; 18B-207.

14B NCAC 15C .0503 SANITATION

All industry Industry members shall maintain the premises and surroundings in an orderly, sanitary manner. a manner to avoid contamination or deterioration of alcoholic beverages the industry member is authorized to produce or possess.

Authority G.S. 18B-100; 18B-206(a); 18B-207.

14B NCAC 15C .0504 OPERATION OF LICENSED PREMISES: EMPLOYEES

No industry member shall do any of the following: <u>Industry members:</u>

- (1) <u>shall not</u> employ a person under the age of <u>less</u> than 18 years <u>old</u> or <u>permit</u> or allow such a person to work in, about or in connection with the premises unless it has been approved by the Commission;
- (2) <u>permit shall not allow</u> intoxicated persons to <u>loiter or be employed</u> <u>remain</u> on the licensed premises;
- (3) <u>fail to shall</u> keep the premises <u>clean</u>, <u>well-lighted and in an orderly manner; clean</u> <u>and lighted to avoid hazards to employees;</u> or
- (4) operate any establishment where there are living quarters connected directly thereto. shall not use the premises as living quarters.

Authority G.S. 18B-100; 18B-207; 18B-1003; 18B-1005.

14B NCAC 15C .0505 OFF-SITE STORAGE LOCATION

- (a) The holder of a brewery, winery, or distillery permit shall notify the Commission in advance of storing any alcoholic beverages that the permittee manufactures under its permit in If a brewery, winery, or distillery has a noncontiguous storage location as authorized pursuant to G.S. 18B-1120. 18B-1120, the permittee shall notify the Commission of the authorization before storing the products manufactured by the permittee at the noncontiguous location. This notification shall be deemed a part of the original permit application.
- (b) <u>The brewery, winery, or distillery</u> Notification shall be made shall notify the Commission on a form approved by the Commission that requires: requiring the following information:
 - (1) the permittee's name:
 - (2) the business mailing address;
 - (3) the permit number;
 - (4) the principal location address;
 - (5) the noncontiguous storage location address;
 - (6) a diagram of the premises showing the exact locations of entrances, exits, storage areas for alcoholic beverages, and separate storage areas for any other property or merchandise;
 - (7) a copy of the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau approval of the noncontiguous storage location; and
 - (8) a copy of the Commission's Zoning and Compliance form applicable to the noncontiguous storage location, completed pursuant to G.S. 18B-901(c).
- (c) The noncontiguous storage location shall only be used by the permittee The permittee shall use the noncontiguous storage location only for storage of alcoholic beverages manufactured by the permittee and non-alcoholic beverage items owned by the permittee. No alcoholic beverages of the The permittee shall be stored not store alcoholic beverages in the same storage area with other property or merchandise of the permittee or any other person. The noncontiguous storage location shall be subject to inspection pursuant to G.S. 18B-502 and Rule .0501 of this Section. 14B NCAC 15C .0501.

Authority G.S. 18B-100; 18B-207; 18B-502; 18B-901; 18B-1120.

SECTION .0600 - SALES AND DELIVERIES OF MALT BEVERAGES AND WINE

14B NCAC 15C .0601 APPROVED BRANDS ONLY

Except as provided in Subchapter 15B, Rule .0216, no wholesaler Wholesalers shall <u>not</u> sell any product that has not been <u>alcoholic</u> beverages in this State unless approved by the Commission for sale in this State. or as provided in 14B NCAC 15B .0216.

Authority G.S. 18B-100; 18B-207; 18B-1005.

14B NCAC 15C .0602 SALES AND PURCHASE RESTRICTIONS: RECORDS

(a) All malt beverages, unfortified wine, and fortified wine intended for sale, delivery, or shipment to retail permittees in the wholesaler's designated sales territory shall be delivered by the

supplier or its designee to the wholesaler. Suppliers, or their designees, shall deliver malt beverages, unfortified wine, and fortified wine, intended for sale, delivery, or shipment to retail permittees, to the wholesaler assigned to the sales territory where the retail permittee is located. The malt beverages, unfortified wine, and fortified wine delivered to the wholesaler shall be unloaded unload the alcoholic beverages from the delivery vehicle, placed on the floor of the place the delivery wholesaler's permitted premises so that its where its entire weight is supported by the wholesaler's floor, inventoried, inspected, inventory, inspect, and verified verify the delivery for taxes by the wholesaler. tax purposes. The provisions of this Paragraph do not apply to products sold, delivered, or shipped pursuant to G.S. 18B-1101(7) or G.S. 18B-1104(a)(8).

- (b) No wholesaler of malt beverages Malt beverage wholesalers shall <u>not</u> sell malt beverages to <u>any a person</u> who does not hold a retail or wholesale malt beverage permit, and no wholesaler of wine wine wholesalers shall <u>not</u> sell any fortified wine or unfortified wine to <u>any a person</u> who does not hold the appropriate a retail or wholesale fortified or unfortified wine permit. However, a A wholesaler may furnish or sell wine or malt beverages to the wholesaler's employees for the sole use of the employees, pursuant to G.S. 18B-1101(4), 18B-1102(4), or 18B-1104(a)(5).
- (c) No retail malt beverage or wine permittee Retail permittees shall purchase malt beverages or wine only from anyone other than a licensed wholesaler.
- (d) All persons holding retail malt beverage or wine permits Retail permittees selling malt beverages or wine shall keep the sales tickets and delivery receipts furnished by the wholesaler, pursuant to Rule .0502 of this Subchapter, required by 14B NCAC 15C .0502 and all other records of purchases of malt beverages and wine. All receipts and records required to be retained pursuant to this Paragraph shall be kept separate and apart from all other nonalcoholic beverage records. Delivery receipts shall set forth state the terms of sale for each separate per transaction between the retailer and the wholesaler and shall include for each separate sale: the following:
 - (1) the date of sale;
 - (2) the trade name of the retail establishment;
 - (3) the location of the retail establishment;
 - (4) the quantity of each brand of malt beverages or wine sold;
 - (5) the unit price;
 - (6) the total price;
 - (7) the amount paid; and
 - (8) the invoice or receipt number.
- (e) The retailer shall <u>keep retain for inspection</u> copies of all sales tickets and delivery receipts <u>available for inspection</u> on the premises for three years.
- (f) A retail permittee may maintain malt beverage and wine invoices at one location, other than the licensed premises, upon written application to and approval by the Commission. Commission at permits@abc.nc.gov. When considering reviewing the application, the Commission shall consider the following:
 - (1) whether all permits are permits held by the same applicant;

- (2) whether electronic copies of the invoices will be accessible to law enforcement at the retail location; and
- (3) whether the permittee agrees to make the original invoices available on the licensed premises to law enforcement within 48 hours of the request by law enforcement.

Authority G.S. 18B-100; 18B-207; 18B-1107; 18B-1109; 18B-1113; 18B-1114.

14B NCAC 15C .0603 HOLDING OF CHECKS PROHIBITED

No wholesaler or his agents or employee A wholesaler shall not enter into an agreement or understanding with a retailer to retain delay, at the request of the retailer or for the benefit of the retailer, the deposit of checks issued to the wholesaler by a retailer for alcoholic beverages delivered to the retailer. Checks issued by the retailer to the wholesaler for payment of alcoholic beverages received shall be deposited by the wholesaler promptly in the ordinary course of business. A check issued to the wholesaler by the retailer and When a retailer's payment to the wholesaler is returned by the bank due to non-sufficient funds shall be redeposited promptly for collection by the wholesaler. funds, the wholesaler shall attempt to redeposit the check. If the check is returned to the wholesaler a second time due to non-sufficient funds, the wholesaler shall report the matter to the Commission within 10 days. days of the second notice of non-sufficient funds.

Authority G.S. 18B-100; 18B-207; 18B-1116(a)(3).

14B NCAC 15C .0604 COLLECTION OF AMOUNT OF SALE

(a) Each wholesaler Wholesalers shall collect the full amount of the sale price in cash or bona fide check at the time of or prior to delivery of alcoholic beverages to a retailer except as provided in this Rule. No wholesaler A wholesaler shall not extend credit for any period of time to any to a retailer who purchases malt beverages or wine from him. the wholesaler.

Note: For purposes of this Section, the term "check" shall include the electronic transfer of funds from a retailer to a wholesaler. Prior to an electronic fund transfer, the retailer shall enter into a written agreement with the wholesaler specifying the terms and conditions for the electronic fund transfer as payment for alcoholic beverages. All such agreements shall provide that the wholesaler may initiate the electronic fund transfer at any time after delivery of alcoholic beverages. The electronic fund transfer must be initiated before the end of the business day following delivery. Any agreement authorizing electronic fund transfers shall be voluntary on the part of all parties. The wholesaler may not bear any share of the retailer's cost related to electronic fund transfers, including costs of information generated by third parties related to such transfers. Nothing in this Rule shall operate to suspend any of the requirements concerning sales tickets and record keeping as provided in Rule .0502 of this Subchapter.

(b) <u>Paragraph (a) does not apply to wholesaler Collections for</u> sales and deliveries upon military <u>reservations</u>, <u>however</u>, <u>shall not be required at the time of the transaction.</u> <u>reservations or installations.</u>

(c) A route salesman may accept one payment for all deliveries made by him on the same day to the same permittee if deliveries are made to two or more of the permittee's retail premises on the same are on the salesman's route. Payment in such cases shall be collected by the salesman for all such The route salesman shall collect payment for all permittee's deliveries no later than at the last of permittee's store account stores on the route. Nothing in this Rule shall be construed to authorize a A route salesman shall not to collect payment from a permittee at an office location unless the office is located on the premises where a delivery is made.

For purposes of this Rule, the term "check" shall include the electronic transfer of funds from a retailer to a wholesaler. Prior to an electronic transfer of funds, the retailer and the wholesaler shall execute a written agreement regarding the terms for electronic transfer of funds for payment of alcoholic beverages, and shall include authorization for the wholesaler to initiate the transfer after delivery of alcoholic beverages to the retailer. The wholesaler shall initiate the electronic transfer of funds before the end of the business day following the day of delivery. A retailer shall be responsible for costs associated with the retailer's use of electronic transfer of funds. This Rule shall not waive record keeping requirements of 14B NCAC 15C .0502.

Authority G.S. 18B-100; 18B-207; 18B-1116.

14B NCAC 15C .0605 PLATFORM SALES

Wholesalers may sell malt beverages or wine to any person holding the appropriate retail permits at the wholesaler's place of business. Such a transaction shall be known as a platform sale. Platform sales, when a wholesaler sells malt beverages or wine at the wholesaler's premises to persons holding retail permits, are authorized.

Authority G.S. 18B-100; 18B-207; 18B-1107; 18B-1109.

14B NCAC 15C .0606 PRAUGHT DRAFT MALT BEVERAGE SALES: ACCESSORIES: DELIVERIES

- (a) Delivery to Retailer; Consumer. For each sale of draught beer, the A wholesaler shall transport the beer draft malt beverages in kegs to the premises of a licensed retailer. There the The wholesaler shall collect for the sale, and the retailer shall complete and sign his the sales ticket, writing on it ticket and add the name of the purchaser and the delivery address to which the beer is to be delivered. for the draft malt beverages. If the purchaser of the draught draft malt beverages beer can not transport the beer keg or does not know how to set up and tap the beer, keg, the purchaser he may request that the wholesaler assist him. wholesaler's assistance. Upon receiving such a request, a request for assistance, the wholesaler may deliver the beer keg from the retailer's premises to the person and place purchaser and delivery address designated on the sales ticket. and may set it up.
- (b) Assisting Consumer. Upon arrival at At the designated place of delivery, the wholesaler may set up the equipment, tap the keg keg, and test to see that it is working properly. the keg is functioning. The wholesaler may pick up his kegs and equipment at any time.
- (c) Tapping Accessories. Hand A wholesaler may deliver to a consumer hand pumps, carbon dioxide cylinders, related gauges,

tubs, iee ice, and cups may be delivered with the kegs by a wholesaler to a consumer. kegs. Such accessories Accessories may be left with a retailer only upon the filling of an order from a retailer who when the retailer has a specific and current order from a consumer, and either the retailer will deliver or the purchaser will pick up the kegs and accessories are to be delivered by the retailer or picked up by the consumer. accessories. Nothing in this This Rule shall be construed to allow does not authorize a wholesaler to loan or rent tubs or tapping accessories to a retailer for any period of time. retailer.

(d) Keg Deposits. Any deposit charged by a brewer to a wholesaler for a draught malt beverage keg shall be charged to and collected from the retailer upon delivery of the keg to the retailer. If a brewery charges a wholesaler a deposit for a draft malt beverage keg, the wholesaler shall charge and collect the deposit from the retailer when the keg is delivered to the retailer.

Authority G.S. 18B-100; 18B-207; 18B-1116.

14B NCAC 15C .0607 MALT BEVERAGE AND WINE SHIPMENTS TO MILITARY BASES

No industry member except Only a wholesaler with a permit pursuant to G.S. 18B-1107 or G.S. 18B-1109 shall ship malt beverages or wine directly to a United States military or naval reservation or installation within North Carolina. All malt beverages and wine intended for that purpose to be delivered to military reservations or installations shall be shipped to wholesalers. These beverages The shipments shall come to rest upon the warehouse floor of the wholesalers, as set forth in Rule .0602(a) of this Section, who may then wholesalers pursuant to 14B NCAC 15C .0602(a) before the wholesaler is authorized to deliver them to United States military or naval reservations or installations within North Carolina.

Authority G.S. 18B- 100; 18B-109(b); 18B-207; 18B-1101(2); 18B-1102(2); 18B-1104(3); 18B-1113; 18B-1114.

TITLE 15A – DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Notice is hereby given in accordance with G.S. 150B-21.2 that the Coastal Resources Commission intends to amend the rule cited as 15A NCAC 07H .2302.

Link to agency website pursuant to G.S. 150B-19.1(c): https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/division-coastal-

management/coastal-resources-commission/crc-proposed-rules

Proposed Effective Date: May 1, 2026

Public Hearing:

Date: October 20, 2025

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Location: NC Division of Coastal Management, 400 Commerce

Avenue, Morehead City, NC 28557

Reason for Proposed Action: 15A NCAC 07H .2302 contains the procedures for applying for and complying with a General

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