

City & Guilds NPTC Level 2 Award In the Safe Use of Aluminium Phosphide for Vertebrate Pest Control (PA-AP) (0216-26)

Version 1.1 (April 2025)

Assessment Pack – Candidate Version

Version and date	Change detail	Section
1.0 February 2024	First version	All
1.1 April 2025	Formatted Unit Numbers updated	Throughout

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Introduction

This assessment relates to the unit in the Qualification handbook. The assessment can be achieved at pass only. If any task is not yet met the candidate is unsuccessful.

This assessment is for the following units and learning outcomes:

Unit 204 The principles of using aluminium phosphide for vertebrate pest control covering the following learning outcomes:

1. Know the legislative requirements and codes of practice relating to the use of Aluminium Phosphide
2. Understand the relevance of product label information
3. Understand how to minimise the risk of human contamination and implement emergency procedures
4. Know how to store and transport Aluminium Phosphide safely
5. Know how to manage and dispose of surplus Aluminium Phosphide and waste materials
6. Know the record keeping requirements
7. Understand how to minimise the risk of environmental contamination and implement emergency procedures.

Unit 205 The practices of using aluminium phosphide for vertebrate pest control covering the following learning outcomes:

1. Be able to comply with the legislative and safety regulations relating to applicator use
2. Be able to assess the environmental factors relating to application
3. Know the characteristics of the species to be controlled and their impact on the environment
4. Know the methods of preventative management and control of the species
5. Be able to complete a site survey prior to carrying out control by Aluminium Phosphide
6. Be able to operate Aluminium Phosphide application equipment safely
7. Understand how to carry out post operational procedure

General guidance on the requirements for assessment can be found in the Assessor Guidance General guidance on the requirements for assessment can be found in the Assessor Guidance document available on the City & Guilds web site www.nptc.org.uk

The assessor must complete the Practical Table mark sheet for each candidate which should be kept by the assessor for a minimum period of twelve months.

Assessment Time

The expected assessment time for this qualification is 1.5 – 3 hours.

Summary of responsibilities in the assessment process

Centre responsibilities	Candidate responsibilities	Assessor responsibilities
A suitable site is made available for the assessment to take place		Ensuring that the site provided is suitable for the assessment to take place
Machinery, equipment and materials are available to enable assessment of all the activities to take place	To be familiar with the machinery/equipment being used for the assessment	Ensuring that the machinery, equipment and materials provided satisfy the assessment requirements
	To bring appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to the assessment	Ensuring that candidate's PPE complies with the requirements of the assessment
	To bring relevant training materials (including calibration sheet if applicable)	
	To bring a product label appropriate for the assessment	To ensure that the product label is appropriate for the assessment (or provide a suitable alternative)

This is not an open book assessment, however additional technical information may be sought from the relevant manufacturer's operator manuals or any other appropriate training or safety publication.

Practical observation descriptor table

204 The principles of using aluminium phosphide for vertebrate pest control

Activity number and description from check list	Assessment criteria
1.1 State an operator's responsibilities under current legislation relating to the use of Aluminium Phosphide	Operator's responsibilities: • take reasonable care of him/herself • take care of others • co-operate with employer • follow employer's requirements COSHH regulations • operators to follow the COSHH/Risk Assessment • use the control measures as provided • check that control measures are working • report any defects promptly • use the provided Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) • use the provided Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE) Measures required for COSHH Hazards: • harmful • toxic • flammable Risks: • Exposure to Phosphine gas (causing unconsciousness or death) • spontaneous combustion • activated by damp or wet conditions Control measures: • keep in original container until ready to apply • use correct applicator • follow COSHH/Risk Assessment • use correct PPE/RPE • avoid using in damp or wet conditions • avoid risks to third parties by using exclusion zones/warning signs • ensure that lone working procedures are in place • ensure that emergency procedures are in place • treated area to be monitored after application

	Part III of the Food and Environmental Protection Act 1985: • protect the health of human beings, creatures and plants • only use humane methods of pest control • safeguard the environment • prevent the pollution of water • make information available to the public Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012 May include: • all statutory conditions must be complied with • all products must be approved for the intended use • product labels and data sheets must be read and complied with • maximum dose rates must be complied with • take all reasonable precautions to protect the health of human beings, creatures and all the environment • have had adequate instructions, training and guidance • achieved City & Guilds appropriate qualification • comply with the Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012 Poisons Act 1972 • seller must identify purchaser • purchaser must provide verification if not known to seller signed order accepted if purchaser cannot collect, detailing: • name and address of purchaser • trade, business or profession • total quantity • establish purpose for use • complete the poisons book • rules for wholesaling Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 • knowledge of which species can be treated legally (under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) • signs of non-target wild species • knowledge of how to recognise signs of activity • ability to carry out an Environmental Risk Assessment and site survey to determine risks and pest level • wildlife habitat protection
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		Foxes: • principal features of a fox earth • fox signs, paw prints, hairs, droppings, scent • fox specific habits Badgers: • legal position regarding the protection of the badger • legal position regarding the protection of the badger sett • principal features of the badger sett • badger signs, tracks, hair, dropping, scents • badger specific habits Species may also include: • other mammals (Pine Marten, Water Vole) • birds living in burrows (Puffins, Shearwater) • amphibians • reptiles • domestic animals and farm animals Sites may include: • identification of protected sites e.g. SSSI (Sites of Special Scientific Interest) • SCA (Special Conservation Areas) Prohibiting rabbit control May include: • Skokholm Island • Isles of Scilly • one square mile in the centre of London
1.2	State an operator's responsibilities under current codes of practice relating to the use of Aluminium Phosphide	Use of Aluminium Phosphide may include: • reporting of incidents involving wildlife except fish (WIIS) Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme • reporting incidents involving fish to the Environment Agency • abide by the static and mobile storage guidance laid out in HSE information sheet AIS16 & AIS22 • always transport Aluminium Phosphide as stated on the label • always follow requirements relating to container Best practice may include: • lone working procedures to be in place • operations with a buddy system preferred Aluminium Phosphide packaging: • must be correctly labelled • must be undamaged • must show batch numbers/tracking numbers

		• must remain sealed up to the point of use • UN approved packaging • must be securely attached to the appropriate applicator
2.1 - 2.2	State the relevance of product label information. Explain how the product must be used	May include: • the statutory status of the label • the significance of the important information section • the product being used • approval number • active ingredient • approved field of use • the target species on which the product can be used • specific product precautions • approved directions for use • use the correct applicator for the product • application timing and guidance • application rate • PPE to be used • RPE to be used • first aid information • additional information
3.1	State possible routes of contamination	To include: • absorption • inhalation • ingestion May include: • no eating drinking or smoking • maintain personal hygiene • never inhale or swallow any gassing compounds • Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to be suitable and serviceable • check the operational life of filters • store PPE and RPE safely and away from contamination • dispose of PPE and RPE safely • apply only with the correct applicator • only to be applied outdoors • Establish a risk area 25m from the treatment area and monitor for phosphine at the edge of the risk area. Risk area can be reduced to within 10m of the treatment area if phosphine is not detected • not to be used <u>either</u> within 10m distance from buildings habituated by man or animals or within the established risk area • knowledge that gas is present for 24/48 hours from becoming active

		- do not use in rain, heavy mist or on waterlogged ground - safety notices and exclusion areas
3.2	List appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	May include: - coveralls - suitable gloves - appropriate footwear - appropriate types of respirators (full face or hood types only) - RPE filters B1 or B2 plus P3 for particulates - use hood type RPE for operators with facial hair and glasses
3.3	Describe the symptoms of contamination	May include: - nausea - vomiting - headache - dizziness - finger tingling - weakness - faintness - chest pains/tightness - coughing - difficulty in breathing
3.4	Explain appropriate procedures for dealing with contamination	May include: - protect self first (RPE) - use of 999 and 112 for emergency contact - relay accurate information to Emergency Services - remove contaminated clothing - contact the National Poisons Information Services (NPIS) via the NHS on 111 Identify first aid to measures to include: - remove from the source of contamination - airway clear - treat as an emergency - stay with the casualty - do not perform mouth to mouth resuscitation
3.5	Describe how to deal with an accidental spillage resulting in the liberation of gas	Dealing with an accidental spillage to include: - evacuate area - wear appropriate RPE - appropriate method to clear up spillage referring to manufacturer's label - bury at location (includes holes and burrow) - know the location of spillage/grid reference

		inform Environment Agency and other relevant authorities (if over the normal application rates)
4.1	State how Aluminium Phosphide should be stored	Requirements for safe storage may include: - appropriate warning signs - visible contact number for storage ownership - storage recording system - fixed location storage conditions, stored off the floor above a bund in a separate moisture proof and fire proof chest, bin or vault fixed to the wall of the store - the storage container should be marked 'Gassing Compound: Do not use water' - should be kept locked and key only accessible to those approved to use the product - ensure correct firefighting equipment in store (dry powder extinguishers) - correct PPE and RPE to be available
4.2	State how Aluminium Phosphide should be transported	Requirements for safe transportation: - appropriate warning signs - precautions and documentation during transport - products to be segregated from people during transport - should always be stored in vapour proof container separated from cab or in container on external body of vehicle - product records required in case of emergency - never carry part used flasks - ensure correct safety (RPE) equipment is in vehicle cab away from the product
5.1	State appropriate methods of reducing waste	- check site prior to operation - check weather forecast prior to treatment - ensure rabbits/rats/moles are below ground - check amount dispensed - ensure effective liaison with the stopper operator - ensure all holes covered to prevent gas escape
5.2	State how to manage and dispose of surplus Aluminium Phosphide	Disposal methods could include: - there should be no excess pesticides when using Phosphine releasing products (product should be used on a job by job basis) - if the treatment does not require a full flask another treatment process should be selected in accordance with the COSHH/Risk Assessment

		if there is any excess pesticide remaining after application, it should be buried according to the instructions on the label and safety provisions put in place for 48 hours
5.3	State how to manage and dispose of waste materials	Disposal methods could include: - tap any remaining residue out of container and applicator at treatment burrow and vent the container thoroughly on site - always dispose of the container according to the label (recycling not acceptable) - container disposal via a licensed waste disposal contractor with consignment note - consignment note to be retained by operator/company - refer to RAMPS Code of Practice
6.1	State the records required to comply with legislation and best practice	Records to include: - training records - Environmental Assessment - Risk Assessment - COSHH Assessments - control and emergency procedures - stock records - PPE and RPE stock numbers and equipment maintenance checks - name and signature of the person carrying out the - equipment inspection - application records
7.1	Describe risks to the environment from Aluminium Phosphide	Risks to include: - contamination of non-target species - uncontrolled product liberation - operator not aware of the 'Risk Area' - application within 10 metres of a building occupied by humans or animals - or within the established risk areas
7.2	Describe how to carry out Aluminium Phosphide application to minimise the risk to the environment	Methods to include: - complete a detailed site survey - read and follow the product label - follow the Environmental Assessment - use the correct application equipment - apply in suitable weather conditions
7.3	Explain appropriate procedures for dealing with environmental contamination	Procedures could include: - top application - secure the area - contact Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme (WIIS) - contact the Emergency Services - contact the Environment Agency

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Activity number and description from check list		Assessment criteria
1.1	Comply with the legal requirements relating to Aluminium Phosphide when using the application equipment	To include: • legal requirements followed • application equipment used correctly • comply with The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012 • the operator must hold the appropriate certification for the equipment they are using
1.2	Apply Aluminium Phosphide safely using the correct equipment following industry best practice	To include: • comply with Pesticide Codes of Practice • adopt industry best practice • apply Aluminium Phosphide safely • use the correct equipment
2.1	Identify risks to the environment by completing an environmental risk assessment	May include: • ground conditions • water courses • environmental margins/strips/areas • drains • boreholes • wildlife • housing • public access • the impact of wet weather with product • wind speed • wind direction • type of soil • moisture content of soil • other risks particular to the site Risk area is: • the area of possible danger around the fumigation area and out to a defined boundary where phosphine gas may be detected • the risk area must be established at least 25 metres from the edge of the Fumigation area if it can be ensured by operational means that no person, farm or domestic animal will be present within this distance Distance of the risk area from the fumigation area is established: • the concentration of phosphine outside of this risk area must be below 0.01ppm and re-entry of persons into this risk area other than by the operator can only be permitted once clearance is granted

		by the operator and the concentration of phosphine is below 0.01ppm Areas where treatments of Aluminium Phosphide gas are not permitted - under no circumstances can treatments be conducted if the intended fumigation area is within 10 metres of surface watercourses, ditches, human habitation or any non-target burrows, farm or domestic animal habitation Suitable areas must include: - correct identification of the risk area - mark out from the outer edge of the fumigation area to a distance of 25m in 5m spaces and in 4 different directions to quarter the area. A total of 20 markers - take two gas readings at each of these markers one 10cm above the ground and one at head height using suitable equipment to establish the gas levels - the risk area may only be reduced if it does not contain any readings above 0.01ppm - The risk area cannot be reduced to less than 10m from the fumigation area - if any readings exceed 0.01ppm then the risk area must be extended beyond this point
2.2	Explain how to minimize risks to the environment	Methods to include: - complete a detailed site survey - check and maintain application rate - use an appropriate pesticide - careful timing of application - comply with Environmental Assessment - erect warning signs - set up exclusion zones - gas monitoring - read and follow the product label - use the correct application equipment - apply in suitable weather conditions
3.1	Discuss the biology of the target species	May include: Rats: - litter size (approx. 8) - breeding season February to November - breeding frequency (every 24 days) - rats are neophobic Moles - female comes into season between March and April - gestation period 28 days - breed once a year

		• 4 offspring born • young moles are ejected at 8 weeks of age Rabbits: • Doe is in season immediately after giving birth • gestation period 28 days • breed from end of January to November • 4 – 8 kits born • 4 – 6 litters a year • weaned at approx. 21 days old
3.2	Describe the feeding behaviour of the target species	May include: Rats: • feed at two or three familiar points each night • average intake 25 – 30 grams • avoid new objects • can be bait shy • require free water Moles: • earthworms • earthworm cocoons • insect larvae • slugs • millipedes Rabbits: • herbivores • eat approximately 0.5kg green matter per day • food passes through the system twice • normally feeding early morning or early evening
3.3	Describe the activity patterns of the target species	May include: Rats: • prefer a stable environment • very active in familiar areas • can climb rough walls and pipes • jump well up to 100cm • good swimmers Moles: • mainly solitary creatures • territorial • day is split between 4 hours working and 4 hours resting • runs are between 100 – 225mm deep • dig up to 200 metres of tunnels • shallow runs in wet weather • deeper runs in dry weather Rabbits: • mainly nocturnal • usually live in warren families • spend more time in burrows during winter months

		• often live on the surface during the summer
3.4	State where damage may be caused by the target species	May include: • agricultural and horticulture crops and stores, and neighbours to these • municipal and amenity land • sports ground • industrial land • trees and shrubs • banking, railways, rivers, flood banks • undermining • grass airstrips • electrical installations
3.5	State the possible implications of the damage caused by the target species	May include: • reduction in crop values • costs related to damage • costs related to control • transmission of disease • public reaction • environmental impact • agricultural crop assurance schemes • any damage leading to safety implications
4.1	State preventative management for the target species	May include: • exclusion barriers • closed containment or removal of potential food sources • habitat/environment charges • use of repellents • (NB) it is widely recognised that preventative management is not effective for mole
4.2	State the natural control methods for the target species	May include: • approximate life expectancy • natural predators • species competition • food availability • weather conditions • impact of seasons
4.3	State the alternative methods of population control	May include as appropriate to the species: • shooting • snaring/trapping • poison • predation • ultrasound
5.1	Identify the natural habitats of the target species	May include: Rats: • position and topography of home • outside burrows • roof spaces • storage areas • evidence of gnawing (holes etc) Moles:

		• woodlands • hedgerows • airfield grass strips • light cultivated land Rabbits: • burrows as part of warrens • burrow into earth banks and under buildings • close to a suitable food source • warm and dry with access to water
5.2	Identify signs of a target species on the site	May include: Rats: • droppings • smears • holes • damage to structures and food • runs Moles: • Mole hills • surface runs • monitoring target species activity Rabbits: • droppings • scrapes • holes • damage to crops and food • runs
5.3	Identify signs of other non-target species on the site requiring protection	May include: • workers • visitors • general public • children • farm animals • domestic animals • birds • other mammals
6.1	Prepare the site for application	To include: • locate all the rat/rabbit holes • clear vegetation • ensure rabbits/moles/rats are below ground • seal up bolt holes (rabbits) • timing of application • Rabbits – during late morning and afternoon (November to March) • Moles- locate underground runs • use warning signs as required Ensure that people and animals not involved with the operation are cleared from the site
6.2	Carry out pre use checks to the applicator	To include: • use a systematic method to identify serviceability

		• ensure correct applicator used for product • be aware of and comply with, the safety implications identified in the risk assessment • comply with the Code of Practice/label requirement • set up the equipment as per manufacturer's instructions
6.3	Demonstrate how to fill the applicator safely	To include: • check wind direction prior to opening container • ensure correct PPE / RPE is used • show face fit testing • open container out of doors adjacent to work area • load the applicator as per instructions
6.4	Demonstrate safe and accurate application procedures	Methods to achieve accurate application To include: • begin work in the part of the fumigation area which is furthest downwind • keep a check on the wind direction during gassing operations • never place or leave, gassing compounds on the ground surface • position the product in the holes • check amount dispensed • seal each burrow or entry point to be as gas tight as possible
6.5	Carry out all activities protecting human health and the environment	To include: • All activities carried out correctly and safely
7.1	Complete an application record	To include: • suitable application record completed
7.2	Explain how to clean and decontaminate the applicator	May include: • wear appropriate PPE/RPE • ensure that the applicator has no product trapped inside by tapping any dust residues or powder into the last burrow and cover • transport the device to a safe location for venting in a well-ventilated separate part of the vehicle to the driver and any passengers or in a gas tight container stored in a part of the vehicle where no contamination of people can occur. • venting should be carried out in the open in a safe and secure location, protected from rain and well away from any habitation or otherwise occupied buildings. Venting should continue until no more gas is being produced and the applicator is considered to be empty

		• at the first available opportunity following this emptying procedure the applicator should be cleaned by washing as described on the product label • the applicator must be thoroughly dry before its next use • inspect the applicator for wear and damage
7.3	Describe the storage requirements for the applicator	May include: • check all equipment is suitably stored in service vehicle to ensure safety of staff
7.4	State the monitoring requirements for the site following treatment with Aluminium Phosphide	May include: • gas monitoring after 48hrs to determine gas levels • check wind direction, wear full PPE and take two readings one at head height and one at 10cm above the ground starting from the edge of the pre-determined risk area down wind of the fumigation area. • working into the wind take further readings at 5m intervals up to the centre of the fumigation area. If phosphine is detected at any of these points' clearance cannot be granted but the risk area may be reduced to the last positive reading or 10m from the edge of the fumigation area whichever is the greater • repeat the process until four sets of readings have been taken at opposite sides points from the risk area to the centre of the fumigation area • once all readings show phosphine levels below 0.01ppm barriers can be removed and the owner occupier be informed that the treatment is complete and the Fumigation and risk areas are safe to re-enter • keep a record of all readings How to use gas monitoring equipment: • Gas monitoring equipment is in calibration • How to turn on gas monitoring equipment • How to bump test gas monitoring equipment if required • How to take readings with the gas monitoring equipment • Depending on the equipment used how to convert g/m3 into ppm

Appendix 1 Practical table

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All criteria must be achieved.

Activity number and description	Achieved
1.1 State an operator's responsibilities under current legislation relating to the use of Aluminium Phosphide	
1.2 State an operator's responsibilities under current codes of practice relating to the use of Aluminium Phosphide	
2.1 State the relevance of product label information	
2.2 Explain how the product must be used	
3.1 State possible routes of contamination	
3.2 List appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	
3.3 Describe the symptoms of contamination	
3.4 Explain appropriate procedures for dealing with contamination	
3.5 Describe how to deal with an accidental spillage resulting in the liberation of gas	
4.1 State how Aluminium Phosphide should be stored	
4.2 State how Aluminium Phosphide should be transported	
5.1 State appropriate methods of reducing waste	
5.2 State how to manage and dispose of surplus Aluminium Phosphide	
5.3 State how to manage and dispose of waste materials	
6.1 State the records required to comply with legislation and best practice	
7.1 Describe risks to the environment from Aluminium Phosphide	
7.2 Describe how to carry out Aluminium Phosphide application to minimise the risk to the environment	
7.3 Explain appropriate procedures for dealing with environmental contamination	

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All criteria must be achieved.

Activity number and description	Achieved
1.1 Comply with the legal requirements relating to Aluminium Phosphide when using the application equipment	
1.2 Apply Aluminium Phosphide safely using the correct equipment following industry best practice	
2.1 Identify risks to the environment by completing an environmental risk assessment	
2.2 Explain how to minimize risks to the environment	
3.1 Discuss the biology of the target species	
3.2 Describe the feeding behaviour of the target species	
3.3 Describe the activity patterns of the target species	
3.4 State where damage may be caused by the target species	
3.5 State the possible implications of the damage caused by the target species	
4.1 State preventative management for the target species	
4.2 State the natural control methods for the target species	
4.3 State alternative methods of population control	
5.1 Identify the natural habitats of the target species	
5.2 Identify signs of a target species on the site	
5.3 Identify signs of other non-target species on the site requiring protection	
6.1 Prepare the site for application	
6.2 Carry out pre use checks to the applicator	
6.3 Demonstrate how to fill the applicator safely	
6.4 Demonstrate safe and accurate application procedures	
6.5 Carry out all activities protecting human health and the environment	
7.1 Complete an application record	
7.2 Explain how to clean and decontaminate the applicator	
7.3 Describe the storage requirements for the applicator	
7.4 State the monitoring requirements for the site following treatment with Aluminium Phosphide	

Appendix 2 Sources of general information

The following documents contain essential information for centres delivering City & Guilds qualifications. They should be referred to in conjunction with this handbook. To download the documents and to find other useful documents, go to **www.cityandguilds.com** or click on the links below:

Centre handbook: quality assurance standards

This document is for all approved centres and provides guidance to support their delivery of our qualifications. It includes information on

- centre quality assurance criteria and monitoring activities
- administration and assessment systems
- centre-facing support teams at City & Guilds/ILM
- centre quality assurance roles and responsibilities.

The Centre Handbook should be used to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the Centre Contract.

Centre assessment: quality assurance standards

Approved centres must have effective quality assurance systems to ensure optimum delivery and assessment of qualifications. Quality assurance includes initial centre approval, qualification approval and the centre's own internal procedures for monitoring quality. Centres are responsible for internal quality assurance and City & Guilds is responsible for external quality assurance. All external quality assurance processes reflect the minimum requirements for verified and moderated assessments, as detailed in the Centre Assessment Standards Scrutiny (CASS), section H2 of Ofqual's General Conditions. For more information on both CASS and City and Guilds Quality Assurance processes visit: the **What is CASS?** and **Quality Assurance Standards** documents on the City & Guilds website.

This document sets out the minimum common quality assurance requirements for our regulated and non-regulated qualifications that feature centre assessed components. Specific guidance will also be included in relevant qualification handbooks and/or assessment documentation.

It incorporates our expectations for centre internal quality assurance and the external quality assurance methods we use to ensure that assessment standards are met and upheld. It also details the range of sanctions that may be put in place when centres do not comply with our requirements, or actions that will be taken to align centre marking/assessment to required standards. Additionally, it provides detailed guidance on the secure and valid administration of centre-assessments.

Access arrangements - When and how applications need to be made to City & Guilds provides full details of the arrangements that may be made to facilitate access to assessments and qualifications for candidates who are eligible for adjustments in assessment.

The **Centre Document Library** also contains useful information on such things as:

- Conducting examinations
- Registering learners
- Appeals and malpractice

Useful contacts

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