1. **BASIC INFORMATION**

1.1. **Project Number:** Project 02
    of the 2002 National Pre-accession Programme for Malta

1.2. **Twinning Number:** MT/2002/IB-AG-01

1.3. **Title:** Veterinary Controls – Animal Health / Public Health

1.4. **Sector:** Agriculture

1.5. **Location:** Department of Veterinary Services, Malta

2. **OBJECTIVES**

2.1. **Overall Objective**

To set up efficient monitoring Animal Health and Hygiene control programmes according to the Veterinary Acquis, in order to follow the trend set by the new food safety policy (processing, on-farm, slaughterhouses and laboratory services).

2.2. **Immediate Objectives**

- To train Veterinary Service Department staff in Meat and Hygiene Inspection as auxiliaries in accordance with EU Directives 71/118/EC 64/433/EC and 88/320

- To create an efficient official approval procedure for food of animal origin processing establishments including fisheries, as in Directives 71/118/EC, 64/433/EC and 94/65/EC.

- To train Veterinary Service Department staff on the principles of HACCP and set up guidelines for HACCP auditing in processing plants of food of animal origin, including fisheries, in line with Directives 94/356 HACCP in fisheries, 91/493 – fish products; 94/65 and 77/99 – meat products.

- To train Veterinary Services Department staff in implementing the acquis, and in particular the Laboratory staff in view of the forthcoming laboratory accreditation procedure, to achieve required qualified personnel, in accordance
with EU Directive 93/99/EC, Art. 2; and with good laboratory practice as EU Directive 88/320/EC.

- To develop guidelines for the setting up of epidemiological surveys, with particular and specific reference to the Mediterranean disease situation, in order to be able to create an effective system of disease control and diagnosis as according to: EU Directives 92/119/EC – Control of Animal Diseases; 92/117/EC – Zoonotic Diseases; 64/432/EC – Animal Health and 91/68/EC – Ovine and Caprine Health, 90/539 – Poultry and hatching eggs, 92/65 (with particular reference to Bee diseases). The Department has already some ongoing programmes in accordance to the acquis.

- To upgrade residue analysis in food of animal origin in accordance with EU Directive 96/22/EC; 96/23/EC – monitoring of substances and residues in animals and animal products; Regulations 2377/90/EC and 466/2001/EC as well as Decision 97/747/EEC 2001/EC – sampling and analysis methods for heavy metals in foodstuff. Some of these Directives / Regulations have been transposed in the national legislation

- To develop guidelines on good hygiene practices for establishments processing food of animal origin.

2.3. Accession Partnership and NPAA Priority

Accession Partnership

Continue alignment of veterinary and phytosanitary legislation and upgrade inspection arrangements.

NPAA Priority

Strengthening of technical capacity to fully implement the veterinary acquis.

3. DESCRIPTION

3.1. Background and Justification

The EU has forwarded a white paper on food safety where the new line of thinking is that the prevention of food-borne diseases and intoxications should start at farm level. This is to be achieved through the prevention of animal diseases, and through the prevention of contamination of feeding stuffs with environmental, chemical and pathogenic contaminants. This intensive control at farm level, and introduction of strict hygienic procedures throughout the processing – chain, will lead to a better quality of food. This would thus lessen the need of inspective services or corrective action. Often, corrective action has been taken after a big crisis has occurred, such as BSE, dioxin contamination etc. In some other instances, the procedure of meat inspection itself has been the cause of cross-contamination.
These guidelines will soon bring about major changes in the control of food of animal origin, of which the Veterinary Services is the national delegated authority.

It would be important to have experts in different fields (clinical / pathological), who can assist in setting-up intensive surveys that will provide the necessary information on which the Veterinary Services Department, could implement efficient monitoring programmes and control strategies, in line with the Veterinary Acquis.

Such surveys have not as yet been conducted in the different fields of Veterinary Science. This lack of information would be a stumbling block in establishing a strong and efficient Food Safety strategy as requested by the Commission.

The Department of Veterinary services has put in place a national plan for the analysis of veterinary drugs and contaminants, according to EU Council Directive 96/23/EC. The national EU-approved residue plan is vital for export of animal products to EU countries, particularly in view of future accession. The residues laboratory is the only laboratory carrying out analysis of veterinary drug residues in animal products and will be the designated National Reference laboratory for official control in veterinary drugs residues.

The New Food Safety Act is to come into force by the end of 2002; whereby the Veterinary Services will be the authority responsible for the control of food of animal origin up to wholesale level.

3.2. Linked Activities

– The Government has built and equipped a new veterinary services laboratory for a total cost of ca. EURO 750,000.

– Training of staff in residue analysis through an IAEA co-funded project.

– Recruitment of veterinary officers (poultry and swine).

– Recruitment of analysts (for residue testing).

– Participation in several TAIEX multi-country event activities on food safety.

– The Ministry of Health has also a competence in food safety. The Government has upgraded the Public Health Laboratory (both in terms of personnel and equipment). TORs for an expert to carry out a gaps analysis of the Public Health Laboratory have been finalised and sent to the Commission.
3.3. Results

The outputs of the project are:

– Risks identified in the fields of animal health/public health and scientific information collected in view of setting up surveillance and control programmes according to the Veterinary acquis.

– Setting up of an efficient official approval procedure for food of animal origin processing establishments including fisheries

– Setting of guidelines for HACCP auditing of food of animal origin processing plants including fish products Residue monitoring in food of animal origin upgraded in line with the EU acquis.

– Guidelines for good hygiene practices in food of animal origin processing establishments.

– Trained staff within the Department of Veterinary Services.

3.4. Activities

This project is based on receiving twinning assistance from an EU Member State. The twinning arrangement will include one Pre-Accession Adviser (PAA) who will work closely with the Department of Veterinary Services and advise on issues pertaining to the strengthening of administrative capacity. Preferably the PAA will have a sound experience in veterinary food safety issues and will be supported by other short-term experts (STE) in different fields of animal health / public health and residue analysis.

The project is expected to deliver the following:

- Animal Health, Food Hygiene and Veterinary Controls

  – Training of local veterinarians and veterinary support officers in order to achieve harmonisation / implementation of EU acquis related to public health in the veterinary field.

  – Training in veterinary public health as in EU Directive 71/118/EC, and 64/433/EC. This refers to the training in meat and hygiene inspection of approximately 16 auxiliaries in line with the requirements of the mentioned EU regulations.

  – Expertise for slaughterhouses and processing plants of food of animal origin including fisheries products, to assist in the setting up of guidelines for both the approval of such plants and for HACCP auditing, in line with EU Directives 71/118/EC, 64/433/EC, 94/356/EC HACCP in fisheries,91/493/EC – Fish products and 94/65/EC , 77/99/EC - meat products.

  – Guidelines for good hygiene practices in these food establishments.

  – Assistance in overall assessment of national disease status, in collaboration with official veterinarians responsible for animal health and inspectorate service, with the scope of elaborating monitoring and
surveillance programmes according to EU Directives 92/119/EC – Control of animal diseases; 92/117/EC – Zoonotic diseases; 64/432/EC – Animal Health and 91/68/EC – Ovine and Caprine Health, 90/539 – Poultry and hatching eggs and 92/65 (with particular reference to bee diseases)

- **Residue Analysis of Veterinary Drugs**

  - Preparation of guidelines for the revision of residue monitoring and surveillance programmes.
  - Review of existing equipment and recommendations for additional equipment for Veterinary Services Laboratory.
  - Assistance in designing a training plan on analytical and validation methods for the laboratory staff in order to adhere to programmes required by EC Directives 22/2001/EC, 96/23/EC and 98/53/EC.
  - Additional training to the laboratory staff in order to provide them with the suitable qualifications to implement the acquis, in accordance with EU Directive 93/99/EC, and in accordance with good laboratory practice as in EU Directive 88/320/EC. This training is part of the accreditation procedure since EU legislation requires laboratory staff to be suitably qualified by having University Diplomas in order to carry out valid and accredited tests. Such training is provided by specialised institutions and Universities. The Maltese Government guarantees that civil servants granted such training will be bound with the local estacode and sign an undertaking agreement.
  - Assistance in the preparations for the accreditation (GLP and / or ISO 17025) of the Veterinary Services Laboratory.
  - Assistance in residue analysis of veterinary drugs (to include analysis of veterinary drug residues by HPLC, confirmatory methods using LC-MS-MS and heavy metal analysis through AAS). This assistance should include expert advice (including that on current equipment), training in validation methods (including revision of Commission Decision 93/256/EC); trouble-shooting of HPLC and LC-MS-MS equipment, in order to adhere to programmes required by EC Directives 22/2001/EC, 96/23/EC and 98/53/EC.

3.5. **Equipment**

Any necessary equipment, reagents or chemicals will be provided by the Department of the Veterinary Services.
4. **INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK**

The beneficiary of the twinning partner would be the Department of Veterinary Services falling under the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The Department is currently undergoing changes in its organisation. These changes will be finalised in the near future, and the Department will consist of four (4) divisions:

- Animal Health and Welfare;
- Veterinary Public Health (including slaughterhouses);
- Veterinary Laboratory;
- International Veterinary Legislative Affairs and BIPs.

The Veterinary Services Department is also present in Gozo. The Gozo branch consists of a small slaughterhouse for large animals and four slaughterhouses for poultry.

Giving of professional advice, running specific tests, post-mortem examinations, inspecting animal holdings/slaughterhouses/processing plants are all part of the Extension service offered by the Department to farmers and slaughterhouse owners in order to help with specific problems on their farm or establishment.

5. **DETAILED BUDGET (EUROS)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Components</th>
<th>EU Support (Indicative Values in Euros)</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Investment Support</td>
<td>Institution Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>Component 1</td>
<td>Twinning/Institution building</td>
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<tr>
<td>Component 2</td>
<td>Training</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Parallel co-financing from national funds is being made available under linked activities.
6. **IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS**

6.1. **Implementing Agency**

The Department of Veterinary Services will be the implementing agency.

Contact person:

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Senior Veterinary Officer  
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries  
Department of Veterinary services  
Albertown, Marsa  
Malta

Tel: +356 225638  
Fax: +356 238105

e-mail Susan.Chircop@magnet.mt / Angele.Casha@magnet.mt

6.2. **Twinning**

A PAA will be assigned to the Department of Veterinary Services for a total period of 9 months.

6.3. **Non-standard aspects**

None.

6.4. **Contracts**

The twinning Covenant will represent the main contract for the project, which covers the costs of the PAA and short-term TAs.

Any other contracts for supplies, works and services will follow EU procedures as per practical guide.

7. **IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE**

Start of tendering/call for proposals: April 2002

Start of project activity: October 2002

Project completion: December 2004

8. **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY**

Government of Malta is an equal opportunity employer.
9. **ENVIRONMENT**

Not applicable.

10. **RATES OF RETURN**

Not applicable.

11. **INVESTMENT CRITERIA**

11.1. **Catalytic Effect**

The Pre-Accession Funds contribution will help in the strengthening of the technical capacity in order to fully implement the veterinary acquis.

11.2. **Co-finance**

National co-finance contributions primarily will cover the purchase of equipment necessary for project.

11.3. **Additionality**

Not applicable.

11.4. **Project readiness**

A new veterinary services laboratory has been built and equipped with Malta Government funds.

11.5. **Sustainability**

Relevant government policies ensure sustainability. The operational costs will be met out of public funds.

11.6. **Competition**

Services and equipment will be procured in line with the relevant regulations.

12. **CONDITIONALITY AND SEQUENCING**

- Malta complies with NPAA initiatives.
- Deployment of the necessary human resources to follow up the decision and activities identified by the experts.
- The provision of co-financing from Maltese sources.
- The provision of distance training for accreditation of the laboratory staff will be conditional to their attachment to the veterinary laboratory in accordance with the Maltese government estacode ruling long-term training / studying programmes.
According to the estacode, the civil servant will be obliged to sign an undertaking for a specified period based on the number of months/years he/she will be tied to the training programme. If the civil servant resigns from his/her post, a penalty will have to be paid.

**ANNEXES**

I Logframe planning matrix

II Implementation time schedule

III Cumulative contracting and disbursement schedule
## ANNEX I

### LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR: VETERINARY CONTROL – ANIMAL HEALTH / PUBLIC HEALTH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Nber:</th>
<th>Contracting Period Expires:</th>
<th>Disbursement Period Expires:</th>
<th>Total Budget:</th>
<th>EU Contribution:</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project 02</td>
<td>30 April 2004</td>
<td>30 April 2005</td>
<td>580,000 €</td>
<td>580,000 €</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WIDER OBJECTIVE</th>
<th>INTERVENTION LOGIC (Project structure)</th>
<th>OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS</th>
<th>SOURCES OF VERIFICATION</th>
<th>ASSUMPTIONS AND RISKS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
|                 | To set up efficient monitoring, animal health and hygiene control programmes in accordance to the veterinary Acquis, in order to follow the trend set by the new food safety policy. | • Veterinary control and management systems compliant with the veterinary Acquis. | • EU Commission documents  
• EU Regular Reports  
• Review reports by peer organisations from member states | • Co-ordination between relevant Authorities  
• Deployment of human resources by the Veterinary department |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INTERVENTION LOGIC (Project structure)</th>
<th>OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS</th>
<th>SOURCES OF VERIFICATION</th>
<th>ASSUMPTIONS AND RISKS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVES</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>A Training Plan.</td>
<td>Availability of expertise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• To train Veterinary Service Department staff in Meat and Hygiene Inspection.</td>
<td>• All veterinary support staff trained on red meat/poultry meat inspection in accordance with EU directives, and able to retrain future recruits.</td>
<td>Attendance of officers on training programmes.</td>
<td>Availability of human and financial resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• To set up guidelines for approval of processing plants of food of animal origin.</td>
<td>• Improved licensing process with increased effectiveness.</td>
<td>Statistical/audit data.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>• To train Veterinary Service Department staff on the principles of HACCP and set up guidelines for HACCP auditing.</td>
<td>• Veterinarians trained on HACCP principles in accordance with EU directives, and able to retrain future recruits.</td>
<td>Monitoring and Evaluation reports</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• To train the Laboratory staff in view of the forthcoming laboratory accreditation procedure.</td>
<td>• Laboratory staff trained in accordance with the EU requirements for the accreditation of the laboratory.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• To develop guidelines for the setting up of epidemiological surveys.</td>
<td>• Guidelines for epidemiological surveys set up.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• To develop guidelines to good hygiene practice for food establishments</td>
<td>• Guidelines and information to food establishments and private slaughterhouses provided.</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>• To upgrade residue analysis in food of animal origin in accordance with EU Directives.</td>
<td>• Upgraded processes related to the residue analysis of food of animal origin.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTERVENTION LOGIC (Project structure)</td>
<td>OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS</td>
<td>SOURCES OF VERIFICATION</td>
<td>ASSUMPTIONS AND RISKS</td>
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<tr>
<td>RESULTS</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Risks identified in the fields of animal health/public health and Veterinary Service Department staff trained in Meat and Hygiene Inspection;</td>
<td>- Training of veterinarians and veterinary support staff with respect to the food hygiene law include from 5 to 7 veterinarians, 16 veterinary support officers and from 6 to 8 laboratory staff.</td>
<td>- Commission evaluation reports.</td>
<td>- Provision of the necessary inputs to deliver required activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Setting up of an efficient official approval procedure for food of animal origin processing establishments including fisheries;</td>
<td>- Drawing up of effective guidelines for approval/licensing of food preparing/processing establishments.</td>
<td>- Reports from carried out surveys.</td>
<td>- Co-operation of all Stakeholders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Setting of guidelines for HACCP auditing of food of animal origin processing plants including fish products;</td>
<td>- Drawing up of effective guidelines for HACCP auditing.</td>
<td>- Drawn guidelines in all relevant areas.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Veterinary Service Department staff trained on the principles of HACCP;</td>
<td>- Residue analysis programme and methodologies in line with EU directives available. Training in residue-analysis.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Laboratory staff trained in view of the forthcoming laboratory accreditation procedure</td>
<td>- Drawing up of effective for good hygiene practice in different food establishments.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Residue analysis in food of animal origin upgraded in accordance with EU directives;</td>
<td>- Programs for carrying out of surveys including clinical surveys on local farms. (swine and bovine) established and veterinarians able to conduct them.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Guidelines for good hygiene practice in food establishments</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Guidelines for the setting up of epidemiological surveys.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTERVENTION LOGIC (Project structure)</td>
<td>OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS</td>
<td>SOURCES OF VERIFICATION</td>
<td>ASSUMPTIONS AND RISKS</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>INPUTS</strong></td>
<td><strong>A Project Team including a Pre-accession advisor with a sound experience in veterinary food safety issues and short term experts as provided by the twinning agreement.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Monitoring &amp; Evaluation reports.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Availability of financial and human resources</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Food Safety and Control:</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Training of local veterinarians and veterinary support officers;</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Additional Training in veterinary public health (highly specialised residue-analysis) for laboratory staff;</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Training in clinical diagnosis with emphasis on Mediterranean diseases</td>
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<td>- Setting up guidelines for HACCP auditing;</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Setting up guidelines to assist in the licensing process of food establishments;</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Setting up guidelines for good hygiene practice in food establishments;</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Assistance to design and organise clinical surveys on local farms;</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Assistance in the conception of reports inc. monitoring and control programmes;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Residue Analysis of Veterinary Drugs</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Assistance in design of residue analysis plan of veterinary drugs incl. validation methods ;</td>
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<td>- Assistance in the preparation for the accreditation of the veterinary services laboratory, including training of staff;</td>
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<td>- Review existing equipment and recommend additional equipment for laboratory.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Preparation of guidelines for the revision of residue monitoring and surveillance programmes</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Assistance in residue-analysis and trouble-shooting of equipment ( HPLC, confirmatory methods on LC-MS-MS)</td>
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## ANNEX II

### IMPLEMENTATION TIME SCHEDULE

**VETERINARY CONTROL – ANIMAL HEALTH / PUBLIC HEALTH**

Project 02 of the 2002 National Pre-accession Programme for Malta

<table>
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<td>Q1</td>
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<td>Q3</td>
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</table>

**D:** Design  
**T:** Tendering and contracting  
**I:** Implementation  
**X:** Closure
ANNEX III

CUMULATIVE CONTRACTING AND DISBURSEMENT SCHEDULE
VETERINARY CONTROL – ANIMAL HEALTH / PUBLIC HEALTH

Pre-Accession funding

Project 02 of the 2002 National Pre-accession Programme for Malta

(‘000 Euro)

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<th></th>
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<td>30/9</td>
<td>31/12</td>
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<td>30/6</td>
<td>30/9</td>
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