

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND RE-ENACT CHAPTER 4  
ARTICLE II OF THE THIBODAUX CITY CODE OF  
ORDINANCES – MARDI GRAS PARADES**

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the City Council of the City of Thibodaux in regular session assembled, that Chapter 4 Article II of the Thibodaux City Code of Ordinances is hereby amended and re-enacted so as to read as follows:

**Chapter 4. Amusements**

**Article II. Mardi Gras Parades**

**Sec. 4-26. General applicability.**

**Except as otherwise stated herein, the provisions of this article shall apply to all Mardi Gras parades conducted within the City of Thibodaux.**

**Sec. 4-27. Definitions.**

**For the purpose of this article, the following terms are defined:**

**Band.** A group of musicians who perform together.

**Bomb bag.** An item, when used, explodes.

**Confetti canister.** An item that contains metallic confetti streamers or other metallic string-like substance that is expelled or discharged under pressure into the air.

**Float Captain.** A person designated by the Krewe's organization to lead and supervise the Krewe.

**Krewe.** A non-profit organization membership to costumed riders gathered to parade during the Mardi Gras season.

**Floats.** Vehicles with four (4) or more wheels with or without brakes or an engine for their own propulsion upon which are constructed artistic designs and which carry a rider or riders thereon.

**Parade.** A route staged on public right-of-way during the Mardi Gras season.

**Marchers.** Any persons who are members of a marching group.

**Organization.** A coordinated group of persons which conducts a parade within the City of Thibodaux and which utilizes a number of floats in its parade.

**Reviewing stands.** Any vehicles, flatbeds, bleachers, scaffolding or other structure or appurtenance placed along the parade route in order that the occupants of such reviewing stands may view the parades.

**Route.** The pre-determined path chosen by, the mayor and the Thibodaux Chief of Police.

**Sexual Explicit Throws.** Items handed out at parades that are fully revealed, leaving no question as to the meaning or intent.

**Silly string.** Silly string shall include any chemical product or other item which, when used, emits string-like substance that is shot or expelled by means of a propellant or from a pressurized container.

**Stink bomb.** A device for the purpose of emitting an odorous substance when used.

**Tandem float.** Two floats attached to one another and pulled by a single truck.

**Throws.** Items handed out in a parade.

**Truck float.** A normal commercial semi-trailer and/or flat bed, which is decorated and carries costumed and/or masked riders, generally pulled by a semi-truck or similar vehicle.

**Unit.** A vehicle or object used to transport a person participating in a parade.

**Trucks.** A ½ ton, ¾ ton, or 1 ton vehicle used for pulling floats.

**Whip.** An instrument consisting of a handle and lash forming a flexible rod that is used for whipping.

#### **Sec. 4-28. Purpose.**

The regulations contained in this article are ordained and required for the public health, safety, morals, good order, convenience and general welfare of the community. It is the intention of this article to establish reasonable limits to the demand for police, fire, sanitation and other city services and to maintain the great tradition of the carnival season without reasonably inconveniencing the general public.

#### **Sec. 4-29. Floats.**

- (a) Floats shall not be less than twenty (20') feet in length nor more than forty (40') feet in length, not be less than nine (9') feet in width nor more than fifteen (15) feet in width, and not be more than sixteen (16) feet high, inclusive of animation, measured from the street level. If the floats exceed the dimensions provided for herein, the organization's permit may be cancelled unless the dimensions specified are complied with as provided herein, or the floats in violation will be removed from the parade.
- (b) A tandem float is two (2) krewe floats joined together and shall be no more than seventy-two (72') feet in length, no more than fifteen (15') feet in width, and no more the sixteen (16') feet high, inclusive of animation, measured from the street level. The ends and corners of each unit of a tandem float immediately adjacent to the connecting hitch shall be completely enclosed. The skin, barrier, or other enclosure shall completely enclose the area immediately adjacent to the connecting hitch from the bottom of the float up to the handrail height for riders occupying the lower level of the float.
- (c) Auxiliary floats of a smaller size than specified above herein will be permitted provided that there shall be no more than one (1) auxiliary float for each regular float as provided herein. They should be compatible in their color, design, and overall composition with the primary manner of the Mardi Gras floats.
- (d) Each float shall have at least two (2) ten-pound or four (4) five pound functional Underwriters' ABC dry chemical fire extinguishers and at least one (1) ladder for exiting the floats and a safety chain between it and the float. If generators are used, one (1) five pound Underwriters' ABC dry chemical fire extinguisher must be within six (6) feet of the generator.
- (d) Self-propelled floats shall comply with the state brake text provisions for an equivalent class and weight for motor vehicles and shall have affixed thereto a current motor vehicle inspection certificate issued by the state. Self-propelled floats shall also contain double the amount of fire extinguishers as provided for in paragraph (c) of this section. Additionally, self-propelled floats shall comply with such safety standards and criteria established for that class of floats that may be developed and promulgated by the city. Each self-propelled float shall be designed to allow the driver peripheral vision of at least one hundred eighty (180) degrees.

- (e) All attachments and decorations to the floats shall be securely fastened or attached to the float and sharp, pointed or cornered objects on the interior of the float will not be permitted.
- (f) All floats having riders who throw beads, food, toys or any objects of any kind whatsoever, shall be equipped with sufficient safety belt eye bolts, cables or other safety devices securely fastened to the body or framework of the float, sufficient in number to accommodate all riders on the float and of sufficient strength to support the weight of each individual float rider.

  - (1) Each individual float rider shall be provided a safety belt or harness, by the krewe, which shall be attached to the safety device installed on the float under this subsection.
  - (2) In addition to any other penalties specified in this article, violation of this subsection shall subject the offending float rider to removal from the float and/or float being pulled from parade.
  - (3) Each individual float rider shall/may be inspected for compliance prior to start of parade by a designated city officer.
- (g) Interior height shall be forty (40'') inches from deck of float to top of railing or a safety harness shall be worn. Children less than twelve (12) years of age shall utilize safety harness.
- (h) The float shall contain sanitary facilities sufficient to take care of the number of riders for which the float is designed to be used.
- (i) All truck drivers pulling floats shall be at least eighteen (18) years of age and possess a valid driver's license. Drivers will not be allowed to throw, toss, wear or display any type of favor from vehicles in the parade in which they are pulling or driving. Drivers are not allowed to drink alcoholic beverages twelve (12) hours prior to or during the parades.

#### **Sec. 4-30. Truck Floats**

- (a) No truck float shall be more than sixteen (16') feet high measured from street level, no more than ten (10') feet in width, and no more than sixty (60') feet in length including the truck cab. Each truck shall be equipped with such safety equipment as is required by state laws.
- (b) The combined number of truck floats in the parade shall not exceed three (3).
- (c) The truck floats shall be grouped together in the parade line-up, and a minimum of two (2) safety escorts, provided by the krewe, shall be required in the front and rear of the truck float units.
- (d) All decoration and attachments to the truck float shall be securely fastened or attached to the truck, and sharp, pointed, or cornered objects will not be permitted.
- (e) Each truck float must have one (1) ten-pound or two (2) five-pound Underwriter's ABC dry chemical fire extinguishers.
- (f) All truck floats shall have a sufficient amount of ladders to permit riders easy access to and exit from all areas of the float.
- (g) Each truck float shall contain an approved sanitary facility sufficient to accommodate the number of riders thereon and contract to pump out, haul, and dispose of waste from the truck float's sanitary facility.
- (h) All drivers of truck floats shall possess a valid Commercial Drivers License (CDL), and copy of each drivers license shall be presented to the Police

Department at the time of paying the parade permit fee.

**Sec. 4-31. Marching clubs, dance units, and bands.**

**(a) Marching clubs and dance units.**

- (1) Every marching club shall be permitted to march on foot in front of or behind the floats, along the designated parade route, provided they have written consent of the parade organization.**
- (2) Every marching club shall not in any manner impede or delay the progress of the parade. If a marching club impedes or delays a parade, it may be ordered by the parade organization or the police department to disband. Failure to comply with this order shall be grounds to deny a permit in the future and proper prosecution under this Code.**
- (3) Every marching club or dance unit that contains at least one person under the age of eighteen (18) shall provide a minimum of one (1) adult chaperon to every ten (10) participants, regardless of age.**
- (4) The organization shall be charged with enforcing that marching clubs and dance units set a minimum age of eight (8) years old to participate in the parade.**
- (5) Every marching club or dance unit chaperon must be at least twenty-one (21) years old and recognized by wearing some form of identification.**
- (6) Designated chaperons are prohibited from consuming alcoholic beverages at the assembly area, during the parade and at the disbanding area.**

**(b) Bands.**

- (1) Every band that contains at least one (1) person under the age of eighteen (18) shall provide a minimum of one (1) adult chaperon to every ten (10) participants, regardless of age.**
- (2) Every band chaperon must be at least twenty-one (21) years old and recognized by wearing some form of identification.**
- (3) Designated chaperons are prohibited from consuming alcoholic beverages at the assembly area, during the parade and at the disbanding area.**

**Sec. 4-32. Horse groups.**

- (a) Adequate spacing shall be maintained between horses during the parade.**
- (b) For safety purposes horses' heads shall be faced to the crowd when the parade is stopped.**
- (c) All horses must be fitted with appropriate saddles, bridles and other safety equipment which will provide adequate control of the animal. Tack must be in good condition, allowing rider to maintain control of his/her horse.**
- (d) Riders are forbidden to move out of line formation for other than emergency conditions and riders are not to dismount or allow unattended horses along the parade route.**
- (e) Every horse group, except law enforcement horse groups, shall provide, at its own expense, a person or persons with a shovel and barrel type container to pick up all droppings in the assembly and disbanding areas, and following the group along the entire parade route. If a horse group fails to provide such a person or persons it shall not be allowed to participate in the parade.**
- (f) All horses shall be fitted with a manure bag for the purpose for catching horse**

**droppings.**

- (g) Every horse group shall have one (1) vehicle following with a horse trailer.**
- (h) All horse riders are prohibited from consuming alcoholic beverages at the assembly area, during the parade and at the disbanding area.**

**Sec. 4-33. Attire and characterization.**

- (a) All participants in each parade, whether on floats, truck floats, horseback, in cars or in any other type vehicle, or marching, shall be decently attired and no sexually indecent dress or characterization shall be allowed.**
- (b) Participants of any parade shall be prohibited from conducting themselves in any vulgar or indecent manner or display any behavior that would be shocking or offensive to the general public.**
- (c) No person shall be allowed to participate in a parade if obviously intoxicated.**
- (d) No person shall be allowed to smoke during a parade while on a float, truck, horse, auxiliary vehicle designated to participate in the parade.**
- (e) Glass:**
  - (1) No glass of any description other than eyeglasses shall be permitted in a parade.**
  - (2) Toasting area will be exempt.**
  - (3) On City property and servitude.**
- (f) No participant in any capacity in any parade, with the exception of law enforcement personnel, shall possess or have in his or her custody or control, any life threatening object, any firearm, any noxious substances or any liquid intended to be sprayed, poured, tossed, handed out or otherwise distributed.**
- (g) No participant in any capacity in any parade shall possess or have in his or custody or control any "silly string" or other item which, when used, emits an adhesive string or like or adhesive streamer-like substance that is shot or expelled from a pressurized container.**
- (h) No participant in any capacity in any parade shall possess or have in his or her custody or control any "stink bomb" or "stink spray". For the purpose of this section, a "stink bomb" or "stink spray", regardless of its actual brand name, shall be defined as a device for the purpose of emitting an odorous substance when used.**
- (i) No participant in any capacity in any parade shall possess or have in his or her custody or control any "bomb bag". For the purposes of this section, a "bomb bag", regardless of its brand name, shall be defined as an item, when used, explodes.**
- (j) No participant in any capacity in any parade shall possess or have in his or her custody or control any "whip". For the purposes of this section, a "whip", regardless of its brand name, shall be defined as an instrument consisting of a handle and lash forming a flexible rod that is used for whipping.**
- (k) No participant in any capacity in any parade shall possess or have in his or her custody or control "confetti canisters or metallic confetti streamers". For the purposes of this section a "confetti canister", regardless of its brand name, shall be defined as an item that contains metallic confetti streamers or other metallic string-like substance that is expelled or discharged under pressure into the air.**
- (l) No music shall be played in any parade, or at viewing locations along the parade**

route, that is not acceptable for public airwaves. Music must not have any words that are deemed unacceptable by the federal Communications Commission. Mardi Gras music is preferred.

- (m) Any person violating the provisions of this Section shall be subject to removal from the parade, and immediate arrest with the vehicle in or upon, or horse upon which the individual is riding seized and impounded by law enforcement.

**Sec. 4-34. Throws.**

- (a) No parade participants other than actual riding members and special guests celebrities or other participants authorized by the parade organization shall be permitted to toss or hand out throws or trinkets of any kind.
- (b) Distribution of doubloons, trinkets or throws of any kind shall be pre-approved by the captain of the parading krewe.
- (c) It shall be prohibited for any driver of any motor vehicle to toss or hand out throws or trinkets of any kind.
- (d) No throws or trinkets of any kind shall be constructed of glass or contain sharp edges or points.
- (e) No throws or trinkets of any kind shall be tossed or handed out to the front or rear of a float or truck or other vehicle.
- (f) No throws or trinkets of any kind shall be tossed or handed out in the assembly or disbanding area.
- (g) Any parade participant, on a float, truck, or on foot, shall distribute no throws or trinkets considered to be of a sexually explicit nature at any time.
- (h) Discarding of debris, trash, and packaging shall be prohibited along the route of the parade.
- (i) Riders not in compliance with any of the above shall be removed from the parade by the captain, float lieutenant, parade marshal, the police department or the carnival coordinator.

**Sec. 4-35. Violation of the Mardi Gras traffic plan.**

It shall be unlawful for any person in charge of a vehicle, marching club, dance team, band or vending contrivance to personally park, stop, loiter or stand in such a manner as to obstruct, impede or inhibit the passage of any parade upon any street in the City of Thibodaux as determined by the chief of police as part of the Mardi Gras traffic plan.

**Sec. 4-36. Limitations.**

- (a) Number of floats. Parade float organizations shall have a minimum number of ten (10) floats.
- (b) Specialty vehicles, including but not limited to, bikes, spyders, golf carts, side-by-sides, business advertisements, or other similar type vehicles, shall be limited to no more than ten (10) units of each vehicle type.
- (c) Microphones, megaphones and other types of devices used to project someone speaking to persons along the parade route are prohibited, except for use by reviewing stand, performing bands and musicians.

**Sec. 4-37. Unauthorized persons or vehicles.**

- (a) Any group or person marching in or riding in any type of vehicle which has not been duly authorized by the parading organization and who is in any manner interfering with the orderly conduct of the parade shall be subject to immediate

**arrest, and any vehicle or animal accompanying them may be seized and impounded by law enforcement authorities.**

- (b) All permitted vehicles shall display a participation card duly authorized by the caption of the krewe.**
- (c) Unauthorized sounding of sirens from other than fire, police or emergency medical services is prohibited.**
- (d) No vehicle with lift kits will be allowed in any parade.**

**Sec. 4-38. Violations generally.**

**If any organization shall be guilty of repeated willful violations of any of the provisions of this article, its permit for the following and subsequent years may be revoked by the mayor and it or any individual who intentionally violates any of the provisions of this article may also be punished as provided.**

**Sec. 4-39. Reserved**

**Sec. 4-40. Application for permits; security deposits and permit fees.**

- (a) Permit required. Any person or organization desiring to stage, present or conduct a Mardi Gras parade shall apply for and obtain an authorization from the mayor's office and meet the other provisions and requirements of this ordinance. All applications for parades scheduled for the carnival season shall be made on or before December first of the year preceding the scheduled date.**

- (b) Application. The application shall contain the following information:**

- (1) The name of the person or organization wishing to conduct such a parade.**
- (2) If the parade is proposed to be conducted for, on behalf of, or by an organization, the name, address and telephone numbers of the headquarters of the organization and the authorized responsible head and registered agent of such organization.**
- (3) The name, address and telephone numbers of the person who will be responsible for its conduct.**
- (4) The name, address and telephone numbers of the person or organization to whom the permit is desired to be issued.**
- (5) The date when such parade is to be conducted.**
- (6) The designated route to be traveled.**
- (7) The approximate number of persons and vehicles that will constitute such parade, and description of the vehicles.**
- (8) The hour when such a parade will start and terminate.**
- (9) The time at which units of the parade will begin to assemble at the assembly areas.**
- (c) Parade lineup. A parade lineup form must be supplied to the chief of police, showing the position of each float, auxiliary float, band, vehicle, marching group and all other components in the parade, and shall be presented not less than ten (10) days prior to the date of the parade permitted under this section.**
- (d) Insurance. Each carnival float parade organization in the City of Thibodaux shall carry liability insurance at least in the minimum amounts as follows:**

- (1) Bodily injury and property damage. One million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) combined single limits.**
- (2) A certificate of insurance listing the City of Thibodaux and the Thibodaux Police Department as additional insured must be in the hands of the parade coordinator one (1) week prior to the parade date.**

**Each parade organization agrees to hold harmless, and also indemnify the City of Thibodaux and the Thibodaux Police Department and/or its employees for any and all damages to property and/or its departments and/or employees that may occur as a result of the negligence of fault on the part of the parading organization.**

- (e) Permits. At least thirty (30) days before the scheduled parade date, a nonrefundable parade permit fee must be presented to the mayor's office. The permit fee shall be two hundred fifty (\$250.00) dollars per year.**

#### **Sec. 4-41. Schedule of parade dates.**

- (a) If a permit is canceled for the season or in the manner hereinafter set out, or if the holder of a permit should not parade in any year, except when a parade is canceled for reasons beyond the control of the permit holder, such as weather, fire or other casualty or due to national emergency, the permit shall be canceled for that year and subsequent years. Such vacancy in date and time may be filled only by an organization already licensed under this article, which may desire to transfer to such date and time, the rule of parade seniority prevailing. Any vacancy that is created by such transfer may likewise be filled only in the same manner. Where any conflict in position, date, time or parade route arises, the rule of parade seniority shall prevail as to which organization shall have the right to the contested position, date, time or parade route.**
- (b) The following parade permits may be issued under the article under conditions hereinafter set forth. The chief of police in accordance with this article may change the date specified herein.**
  - (1) Second Sunday preceding Mardi Gras - Krewe of Shaka and Krewe of Ambrosia.**
  - (2) Sunday preceding Mardi Gras - Krewe of Cleophas immediately followed by the Krewe of Chronos.**
  - (3) Mardi Gras Day - Krewe of Ghana**
- (c) If any organizations violating this article are found during the carnival season, the chief of police shall deliver a written report detailing such violations to the administration. A copy of this report to the administration shall also be sent to the parade organization in question. If the administration finds the violations to be of a serious nature, the permit of the organization may be revoked. If the administration finds the violations to be minor, the administration shall place the organization on probation until the next Mardi Gras season. However, if the next Mardi Gras season the same organization is found in violation of this article for any reason, its permit may be revoked. The penalties listed herein shall be imposed in addition to any other penalties which may be imposed as specified elsewhere in this article.**

#### **Sec. 4-42. Barricades and other crowd restraining devices.**

- (a) During the carnival season, and on the date of any parade conducted outside the carnival season, various crowd control devices shall be installed to provide safer areas for viewing the various parades in the City of Thibodaux. A violation of the intent of these devices may cause the violator to be ticketed or arrested, and punished by a fine not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100.00), or by imprisonment for not more than thirty (30) days, or both.**



**(b) It shall be unlawful for any person(s) to park a vehicle or trailer bed or place a temporary viewing structure on the shoulder or within the state/and or city right-of-way of any state of city roadway at which time such roadway is being utilized as a parade route. Law enforcement personnel and/or their agents shall place the proper "No Parking" signs advising the general public of these regulations prior to and during all parades.**

**Sec. 4-43. Parade viewing.**

**In order to provide safe viewing of parades it will be a violation of the law for any person to hold a child over the age of six (6) years or an adult in his or her arms or on his or her back or shoulders within ten (10) feet of a carnival float or other parade vehicle. A violation of this section will cause the violator to be ticketed or arrested and punished by a fine of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100.00).**

**Sec. 4-44. Float damages.**

**Any person who intentionally damages a parade float and the damage is less than five hundred dollars (\$500.00), shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00), or imprisoned for not more than six (6) months, or both. Where the damage amounts to five hundred dollars (\$500.00), but less than fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00), the offender shall be fined not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00), or imprisoned in accordance with state statutes.**

**Sec. 4-45. Throwing of objects at float riders.**

**The throwing of objects at float riders shall be, depending on the severity, a violation of battery laws of the State of Louisiana Criminal Code, punishable by the R.S. 14:33, 14:34, 14:35, 14:37 and 14:38.**

**Sec. 4-46. Following of band or floats.**

**It shall be unlawful for any person who is not a member of a carnival organization or a contracted participant to follow a float or band during the course of a parade. This includes the following of floats or bands through the crowds or in the streets. Violations of this section may cause the violator to be ticketed or arrested and punished by a fine not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100.00) or by imprisonment for not more than thirty (30) days, or both.**

**Sec. 4-47. Glass containers.**

**It shall be unlawful for any person to use or possess any type of glass container within a distance of five hundred (500) feet of a carnival parade route, two (2) hours prior, during, and one (1) hour following a carnival parade. This section excludes businesses and private residences and private property that are not burdened with a public right-of-way, located within this defined area.**

**Sec. 4-48. Silly string.**

**(a) Definitions as used in this section:**

**(1) Silly string shall include any chemical product or other item which, when used, emits string-like substance that is shot or expelled by means of a propellant or from a pressurized container.**

**(b) It shall be unlawful:**

**(1) For any person to possess or have in his or her custody or control any silly string, or its equivalent, as defined herein within three hundred (300) feet of any parade route within the City of Thibodaux on any day a parade is scheduled.**

**(2) For any person to use silly string, or its equivalent, as defined herein**

**within three hundred (300) feet of any parade route within the City of Thibodaux on any day a parade is scheduled.**

**Sec. 4-49. Penalty.**

**Any person who violates the provisions of this article shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) and/or imprisoned for not more than thirty (30) days in the parish jail.**

**Sec. 4-50. Carnival parade season designated.**

**The official carnival (Mardi Gras) parade season, as used in this article, is designated as that period beginning with the second Friday before Mardi Gras (twelve (12) days) and continuing through Mardi Gras Day, both inclusive. No carnival (Mardi Gras) parade may be staged other than during the official carnival season.**

**Sec. 4-51. Alternate carnival parades dates.**

- (a) In the event that a carnival parade is cancelled for reasons beyond the control of the permit holder, such as weather, fire or other casualty or due to national emergency, the parading organization's permit may be amended for an alternate parade date, which would be Mardi Gras Day, only with the permission of the Chief of Police.**
- (b) In the event of more than one Mardi Gras Parade cancellation the rule of parade seniority will prevail in choice of parade time.**

**Sec. 4-51. Public Safety**

- (a) It shall be unlawful to place elevated type vehicles, ladders, scaffolding, platform or portable elevated devices on parade routes.**
- (b) It shall be unlawful to place any obstruction, including but not limited to rope, fencing, etc. which may act as an impediment to vehicles or pedestrian traffic on any right-of-way along the parade route. The provisions shall not apply the usage of right-of-ways by law enforcement, medical or safety personnel.**
- (c) Parking restriction signs will be posted on later than twelve (12) hours before scheduled parades and will be strictly enforced during dates and times of parades.**
- (d) In the interest of public safety and obtaining reliable information regarding weather conditions or other threats of public safety, the Mayor in conjunction with the Police Chief and Krewe Captain of each respective Krewe, may postpone the start time or cancel the parade.**

The above ordinance having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS:  
NAYS:  
ABSTAINED:  
ABSENT:

And the above ordinance was declared adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_ 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Morvant, Council Adm.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Naquin, President

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**Delivered to the Mayor on**

\_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_

**APPROVED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**UNAPPROVED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**VETOED:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Mayor Kevin R. Clement**

**Returned to the Council Administrator on**

\_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_

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**Publication Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Effective Date:** \_\_\_\_\_