



Chimney

Issue No. 77 - June 2013

JOURNAL



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The front cover picture is of Bramall Hall. Dating back to Anglo-Saxon times and first mentioned in the doomsday book, it is a Tudor manor house. Bramall Hall has been used as a background for television series and films, including Prank Patrol, Cash in the Attic, Coronation Street and The Last Vampyre. FuranFlex is the perfect lining solution for a historic chimney such as this.

Scan here with a QR reader app for direct access to NACS wherever you are!



PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Welcome to the June 2013 edition of the NACS Chimney Journal Magazine, where you will find some very interesting articles and positive announcements throughout.

Those who attended the NACS Chimney Works Trade Show in April this year will have noticed how busy and thriving it was. It was by far the most successful Chimney Works Trade Show to date, and for that I must thank my fellow Trade Show Organisers for their hard work and efforts in ensuring its continued growth and success. I would also like to thank all the exhibitors and visitors who came to support our Show. Next year's Show is already being planned and details will be released shortly, of which there will be some very notable changes so watch this space....!

The National Association of Chimney Sweeps and the Guild of Master Chimney Sweeps have introduced a new Industry Certificate of Chimney Sweeping and National Code of Practice for Members of both organisations to use. Please see further details on pages 17-19.

There are some very useful and informative training courses coming up at the NACS National Chimney Training Centre in Stone, so please be sure to check the training section on the NACS website for further details. Please remember to book places early to avoid disappointment, as we have experienced a huge demand in course places. As always, I urge all of you to consider attending further training courses which will help you improve your business and keep you ahead of your competitors. It really does enhance your business to become qualified and offer additional services.

Best regards,

M.P. Glynn

Martin P. Glynn
President & Director of Public Relations

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For full details of advertising in the Chimney Journal please contact the NACS office. The points of view aired in this publication are not necessarily the views of the Association.
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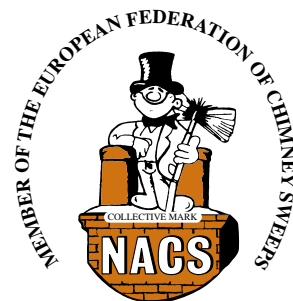
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NEW NACS MEMBERS

| No. | Name | Company | Town | County |
|--------|----------------------|---|--------------|--------------------------|
| 12/040 | Mr Nik Atkinson | Sweeps & Stoves | Bedlington | Northumberland |
| 12/063 | Mr David Boakes | Oaks Chimney Sweeps | Sevenoaks | Kent |
| 13/018 | Mr Philip Bolland | P.Bolland Ltd | Lancaster | Lancashire |
| 11/775 | Mr Paul Coates | P Coates Building & Maintenance | Uttoxeter | Staffordshire |
| 12/058 | Mr Andrew Connolly | c/o Richardson's Chimney Services Ltd | Glasgow | Scotland |
| 12/062 | Mr Robertson Corelli | Master of Sweeps | New Malden | Surrey |
| 12/042 | Mr Bill Crockett | Humphrey & Crockett Ltd | Stockbridge | Hampshire |
| 12/051 | Mr Ben Edmonds | Ben Edmonds Chimney Sweep | Lewes | East Sussex |
| 12/088 | Mr Connel Grimes | Mr Sweeps | Swadlincote | Derbyshire |
| 11/760 | Mr Phil Hart | PTH Sweepclean | Buckingham | Buckinghamshire |
| 12/002 | Mr Ross Hines | Ross Hines Chimney Sweeping | Shrewsbury | Shropshire |
| 12/077 | Mr David Kemp | Kemp Window Cleaning & Chimney Sweeping | Woodhall Spa | Lincolnshire |
| 12/064 | Mr John McIntosh | SIMAC | Barnwell | Peterborough |
| 12/084 | Mr Craig Mitchell | C M Development | Kidsgrove | Stoke-on-Trent |
| 12/025 | Mr Scott Pearce | S.Pearce | Bromley | Kent |
| 12/026 | Mr Steven Proudfoot | Steven Proudfoot Chimney Sweep | Annan | Dumfries & Galloway |
| 11/747 | Mr Stephen Ridout | Clean Sweep | Runcorn | Cheshire |
| 12/072 | Mr Ashley Roberts | A & L Property Services | Ruthin | Denbighshire |
| 13/029 | Mr Telford Rollin | Telford Rollin Chimney Sweep | Ackworth | West Yorkshire |
| 12/050 | Mr Chris Simmonds | Chris Simmonds Chimney Sweep | Walkington | East Riding of Yorkshire |
| 12/057 | Mr Robert Tosh | c/o Richardson's Chimney Services Ltd | Glasgow | Scotland |
| 12/002 | Mr Dean Wilkes | The Womborne Chimney Sweep | Dudley | West Midlands |
| 12/031 | Mr Carl Williams | Carl Williams Clean Sweeps | Okehampton | Devon |
| 12/067 | Mr Bob Wilson | Capitol Stove and Fireplace | Uxbridge | Middlesex |

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RODTECH LAUNCHES ITS NEW CCTV CAMERA SYSTEM AT THE NACS TRADE SHOW

The new system includes both a HD wired and HD wireless camera for inspections of flue systems and other hard to reach places. The 5 inch screen with digital video recording, allows the user to record direct onto an SD card, whilst watching live feed. You are also able to capture a photograph at the touch of a button, so you can give the customer the condensed appraisal they need.

The wireless camera will enable the user to see into spaces that use of conventional mirrors could not reach, and will also enable the sweep/installer to make sure the flue is safe to use, once the job has been completed.

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Rodtech Ltd; products designed for sweeps by sweeps.



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INSTALLER FINED FOR ILLEGAL USE OF HETAS LOGO

A heating installer from Devon has been ordered to pay almost £3,500 by Barnstaple Magistrates Court for offences including the misuse of the HETAS logo.

Warren Emo trading as Fired Up pleaded guilty to all three charges which included giving a customer incorrect advice on the installation of woodburning stoves.

The case was brought to court by Devon Trading Standards, who were assisted by statements from HETAS confirming that Fired Up was not a HETAS registered business, despite the fact that Mr Emo had used the HETAS logo in advertisements in the North Devon Gazette. The court also found that Fired Up had contravened the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations (2008) by falsely advising a customer that he could not have a woodburning stove in each of the rooms of his property, and also that it would not be possible to have a woodburner in one room and a fire grate in another.

The fine for misuse of the HETAS logo was £1165, with an additional fine of £665 for the charge of giving incorrect advice. Mr Emo was also ordered to pay £1000 towards costs, and £603.50 in compensation to the customer with a victim surcharge of £15.

Commenting on the case, HETAS Head of Registration Tina Seymour said "We take any misuse of the HETAS logo very seriously, and work closely with trading standards across the UK to clamp down on any illegal use. With a growing number of HETAS registered businesses and increasing awareness of the HETAS logo amongst consumers we are keen to protect the reputation of legitimately registered installers."

Article provided by Alun Williams at HETAS



Editorial in the Chimney Journal Magazine

The NACS publishes the Chimney Journal magazine twice a year, in June and December. If you have any newsworthy information about your company or products then we would be more than happy to include it.

To submit your press releases and accompanying pictures, please email office@nacs.org.uk or to discuss your requirements please contact Sally Caine on 01785 811732.

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HETAS H003 REFRESHER TRAINING COURSES

New Government Legislation means that from June 2014 any engineer who hasn't completed a HETAS Assessment or Refresher Training Course within the past five years must undertake a **re-assessment**, otherwise they risk losing their Competent Person status. In the past, there has been no follow up provision after an installer has gained their original training qualification in solid fuel heating system installation. The new initiative will help to ensure that engineers undertake follow-on training and keep up to date with the latest regulations and safety directives.

HETAS is responsible for overseeing the new regulations which came about after the Department of Communities and Local Government put in place authorisation for Competent Persons Scheme operators and their Members. These requirements come into full force from June 2014. One requirement of the conditions is to ensure the HETAS Competent Persons Scheme registrants are kept up to date and maintain their Minimum Technical Competence. The current and relevant Minimum Technical Competences require technical qualifications to be renewed on a five-year cycle. From June 2014, the changes mean that HETAS Registered Engineers must have completed a relevant HETAS Course or Refresher Course within the last five years. HETAS has already started to advise registrants of the need to carry out refresher training, initially from those trained prior to 2008 will need to be reassessed. After that, it plans to capture all those with training older than five years by 2014.

HETAS has therefore created a H003 Refresher Course that is designed to cover all changes to the Building Regulations, Health and Safety, BS EN Standards legislation and Technical Standards since 2002. The course and assessment must confirm the installer's competence through practical and theoretical assessments. The assessment comprises a choice of one or two day refresher courses, or to take the full 3 day H003 course if required.

The courses have been designed to be flexible so that people with different training requirements can work towards achieving the standards. The courses have a modular and practical format, giving installers the chance to be assessed and undertake a refresher course if necessary, in a one or two day visit to the NACS National Chimney Training Centre. This means installers need only spend the minimum amount of time away from their workplace to be reassessed.



Candidates can make a decision from the following two refresher course options, however the NACS strongly recommends that all delegates consider Option 2

Option 1

A one day assessment. This is suitable for installers that feel fully competent, however they must pass a preliminary test in advance of an assessment. If the test is successfully completed, candidates may then continue directly onto assessment. (This assessment is the current HETAS H003 exam and assessment). If candidates are unsuccessful then they must continue to Option 2. Please note, if candidates are unsuccessful they will need to pay the full fee when attending the next available option 2 course.

£250 +vat

20 September
4 October
15 November
6 December

Option 2

A full two day training course. The first day is classroom based covering relevant changes to the Building Regulations, BS/EN standards and technical standards, using the current H003 training manual. The second day comprises a theoretical and practical assessment as per Option 1.

£430 +vat

19/20 September
3/4 October
14/15 November
5/6 December

If you require any further information then please contact the NACS Office on 01785 811732 or email training@nacs.org.uk. We anticipate these courses being booked up very quickly, therefore we recommend booking early to avoid disappointment.

Steven Howard
NACS Vice Chairman & Director of Training
e: training@nacs.org.uk

UK'S LEADING CHIMNEY COMPANY LAUNCHES NEW MOBILE APP TO AID INSTALLERS

Schiedel Chimney Systems, the leading chimney company in the UK & Ireland, has developed a comprehensive new mobile app to aid installers of its Eco ICID, ICS and Prima Smooth range of products.

The Schiedel Installation Assistant app, which is designed to provide a quick and straightforward reference for installers, includes video breakdowns of each stage of the installation process, from connection to the appliance through to termination, highlighting the safety critical areas where the chimney penetrates floors, ceilings, roof and walls. The app incorporates frequently asked questions information at each stage of the installation process, in line with building regulations, and an easy-to-use system for downloading full product information and installation instructions.

Built using a mobile first methodology, the app will be compatible on most smartphone, tablet and desktop technology and is available to download free via the company's website.

Come and meet your new assistant on the Schiedel Stand B26 at the Hearth and Home exhibition in Harrogate from June 9-11th.

For more details and to find out how to download the app please visit www.schiedel.co.uk



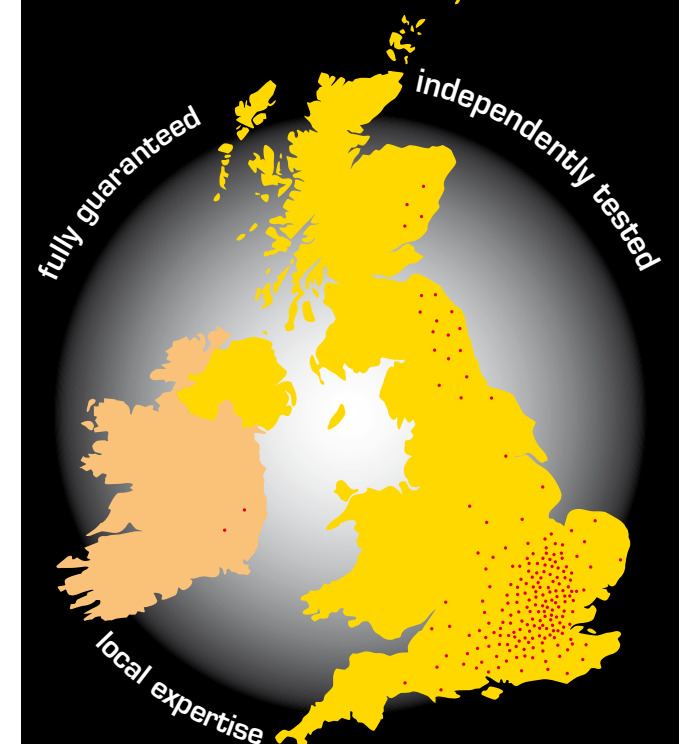
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THE NATIONAL ANNEX TO BS EN 15287:2007 CHIMNEYS - DESIGN, INSTALLATION & COMMISSIONING

Proposed revisions to BS 8303:1994 – Installation of Domestic Heating and Cooking Appliances burning solid mineral fuels.

CE MARKING

Many installers fail to realise that the 'Requirement' contained in ADJ is a single page shown at the start of the document – which in the current version appears on page 9. The remainder of ADJ are Notes for Guidance in order that the Requirements J1 to J6 can be achieved. ADJ also states 'If the guidance in an Approved Document is followed, there is a presumption of compliance with the requirements covered by the guidance. However, this presumption can be overturned... if one particular case is unusual in some way, then 'normal' guidance may not be applicable....so, there may be other ways of achieving compliance with the regulations'. It also states – 'There is therefore no obligation to adopt any particular solution contained in this Approved Document if you would prefer to meet the relevant requirement in some other way. However, persons intending to carry out building work should always check with their Building Control Body, either the local authority or an approved inspector that their proposals comply with building regulations'. ADJ also points you to a list of documents to the rear of the document headed 'Standards referred to'. This list includes 59 British and European Standards which can be used as an 'alternative approach' covering solid fuel, gas and oil installations. Thus, adoption of a European Standard which differs from ADJ is permitted, provided you can prove this approach will not compromise the safety of the installation. Of course all this can be complex and confusing to all parties concerned, so in practice most installers sensibly stick with the guidance in ADJ. However, it is amazing how many times questions arise about how to 'bend the rules'. The National Annex to BS EN 15287 is one instance where the 'alternative approach' applies as the adoption of a 450mm horizontal flue is contrary to ADJ (which still limits the horizontal run to 150mm) but could be permitted. You may recall from previous reports, the most contentious issue in the NA revision was the proposal to allow 450mm of horizontal flue pipe from the rear of an appliance or after 600mm of vertical flue pipe. However, since publication last year much has happened with regard to the content of the National Annex. Following the distribution of the final copy of the National Annex, numerous individuals and organisations raised objections to the content as it was perceived the proposals represented a lowering of UK safety standards. As a consequence, it was agreed to call a joint meeting of the two BSI Committees most closely involved in this sector, together with representatives from

other interested parties. The authors explained they had tried to bring the Standard into line with common European practices which they felt would remove obstacles to fitting twin wall insulated flue systems. Following considerable discussion it was eventually agreed to issue a corrigenda which would introduce various safety checks. Adopting these alternative methods could only be applied if it could be proven the chimney performance would not be affected in any way. The corrigenda details drawings illustrating correct installation practice and a list of 7 criteria to ensure safe practice. I am informed it will be April/May 2013 before this amendment is published. With the appointment of Robert Burke as Chairman of RHE/28 the draft of BS 8303 prepared by Chris Pederson and tabled in November 2011 has been dusted off and will now move forward. A working group has been formed to review the draft changes and progress this important project. The working group is to look at – Shielding of Combustibles, Flue Pipe Thickness, Hearths, Open Convector Box, Register Plates, Ducted Warm Air Systems, Pellet Appliances, Mechanical Ventilation Systems and Commissioning Tests.

The introduction of CE Marking will soon be upon us as part of the Construction Products Directive. 1st July 2013 is the set date and it will be mandatory. As reported last year – where products have not been tested by an independent laboratory and do not have a CE mark, it will be illegal to import and sell them in the UK after this date. Hopefully, appliance manufacturers and importers should by now be aware of this requirement. The main impact is likely to be on the importation of low cost units from the Far East. I understand it is the responsibility of appliance manufacturers to declare conformity with the technical standards. It is unclear how this requirement will be policed, but I suspect it will fall to Trading Standards Officers to monitor the situation. Alas, testing by an authorised independent laboratory is both rigorous and expensive.

ECO-DESIGN

And lastly – let me enlighten you to yet another move by Europe to make our lives so much better! It hides behind the benign label of Lot-15/20 and is an attempt by Europe to improve the standard of appliance design in relation to efficiency and particulate emissions. Unfortunately, the proposals are so onerous that I predict many current designs will not comply. This is a very complex issue which I believe is designed to curb the use of poorly designed coal / wood burning appliances common in parts of Europe. As usual a 'one size fits all' approach is likely to adversely impact on non-offending states such as UK. Robert Burke has tabled figures which suggested that of the 668 appliances in the current HETAS Official Guide, only 88 will meet the proposed levels within 6 years of introduction! I trust that appliance manufacturers are taking these threats seriously. The UK must fight these proposals tooth and nail. Potentially, it could destroy the market for solid fuel appliances – especially wood burning units due to their higher particulate emissions.

COWBOY BUILDERS

We know that many installations are carried out by fitters who

are not registered with any Competent Persons Scheme and are not notified to Building Control. They are often found to be non-compliant and dangerous. I believe that outside our industry detailed knowledge of correct installation practice is poor, especially with some gas installers, general builders and Architects. Perhaps the worse are the DIY jobs. Recently I heard of a case where an elderly customer living in a residential caravan was not willing to pay a qualified installer to fit a stove and twin wall flue system so decided to fit it himself. After the caravan burned down the insurance company asked the same installer to investigate and report. It transpired the hearth was inadequate, lacked ventilation and was fitted with single skin flue pipe. It is clear there is no understanding of the dangers associated with solid fuel fires, whether that be the risk of fire or carbon monoxide poisoning. Perhaps it is complacency. My concerns also surround the current fashion to fit stoves into houses which were built without chimneys. Often, unskilled installers and builders fit prefabricated flues in ways which are contrary to accepted standards. There exists a number of sweeps, heating installer and service engineers who regularly speak with me to complain about examples of poor workmanship they come across in the course of their work, having been called in by the customer. Frankly, they are all appalled at the standard of work seen, as am I. These reports come from engineers who work to the highest technical and ethical standards and it offends them to witness bad work. Of course, the offending engineers do not appear to comprehend that poor work may be deemed to be fraudulent (in breach of contract) and dangerous (risk of

fire and/or CO poisoning). They expose themselves to legal action for damages, insurance claims or worse of all forced to give evidence in a Coroner's Court. As the old saying goes – it takes years to build a good reputation and 30 seconds to lose it. Closer to home – Sweeps often contact me to discuss jobs booked after the first 12 months of use only to discover the installation is unsafe. Sadly, sometimes the installers are HETAS Registered and the customer is advised to make a formal complaint to HETAS. I imagine that with the increase in customer demand for multi-fuel stoves, ill qualified fitters (Cowboys) have seen an opportunity to expand their operations by 'jumping on the bandwagon' to make money. Unfortunately, there is little or no control over non-HETAS Registered installers and the customer is faced with legal recourse or Trading Standards. Of course, suitable training will help to better educate installers on how to carry out correct practice in order to comply with Building Regulations and manufacturer's installation requirements. Unfortunately, 'cowboy builders' can never be 'trained' to change their ways.

On the subject of training – some of you will be aware of the proposal by HETAS to introduce Refresher Courses for every installer who has not undertaken a HETAS training course during the past 5 years. These courses will be run at the NACS Training Centre in Stone starting later from September this year.

Jim Lambeth
Technical Advisor
e: advice@nacs.org.uk



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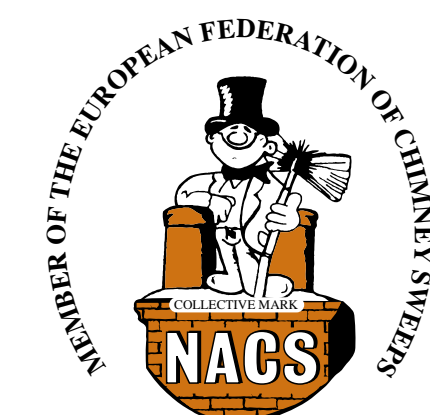
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NACS 2013 CHIMNEY WORKS TRADE SHOW EXHIBITORS

Ability International - www.abilityint.co.uk
 AMAC - www.amacengineeringltd.co.uk
 Brewer Metalcraft - www.brewercowls.co.uk
 BVC - www.bvc.co.uk
 Camvac - www.camvac.co.uk
 C-Caps - www.chimneycap.co.uk
 Chimney Care - www.chimneycare.co.uk
 Colt Cowls - www.coltcowls.com
 DEKS - www.deks.co.uk
 Dinak - www.dinak.com
 Docherty Group - www.docherty.co.uk
 Dustcontrol - www.dustcontrol.com
 Eurocowl - www.eurocowl.co.uk
 FlueCube - www.fluecube.co.uk
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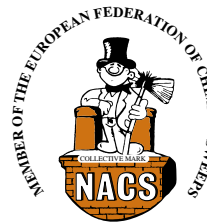
Erica Royle, Editor of Fires & Fireplaces for opening the show

and

AMAC - www.amacengineeringltd.co.uk
 EM Recruitment - www.emr-recruitment.co.uk
 Rodtech UK - www.rodtech.co.uk
 for their generous donations of raffle prizes

Seminars provided by:

Jim Lambeth the NACS Technical Advisor
 &
 Andrew Shaw of Kompozit'all UK / FuranFlex



INDUSTRY STANDARD NATIONAL CODE OF PRACTICE FOR CHIMNEY SWEEPS

Introduction:

Over the last year the UK's two leading professional Chimney Sweeping Trade Associations, the Guild of Master Chimney Sweeps and the National Association of Chimney Sweeps, have been working together and are now very pleased to introduce the "Industry Standard – A National Code of Practice for Chimney Sweeps". Martin Glynn, President of the NACS said "Protecting the Consumer is our primary concern. We cannot continue to allow the Consumer to be put at risk from untrained or unqualified Sweeps with little or no regulation, as highlighted in the recent HSE prosecution where a Chimney Sweep caused the tragic death of one of his customers". As readers may be aware, there is no statutory regulation of Chimney Sweeps and their work in the UK despite the necessity to safeguard the consumer. The NACS and the Guild have recognised the need for unity in producing a workable Code of Practice for all Chimney Sweeps to work to.

What does it mean?

Both the NACS and the GMS Members will be working to the new standard ensuring that the consumer is protected at all times. Information sheets from both organisations and further training sessions will be made available for all Members. The Standard will become widely recognised over the coming year throughout the UK. Consumers, insurance companies and housing associations, local authorities, and other related trade bodies who require the services of a professional Chimney Sweep should ensure that they work to the Industry Standard in order to receive the safest, most professional service. Professional Sweeps advise on many safety issues concerning solid fuel, oil, gas appliances and flues, including ventilation requirements, safety checks and flue termination. Chimney Sweeps play an important role in reporting dangerous situations as well as giving practical consumer advice on chimney problems. Both organisations have full in house complaints procedures in the event that a complaint is made. As the Standard becomes widely adopted, it is hoped that consumers will choose to use the services of Chimney Sweeps who follow the Industry Standard. In addition, to further enhance the Industry Standard, NACS & GMS Chimney Sweeps will be required to issue an Industry Standard Certificate of Chimney Sweeping (with the Industry Standard printed on the reverse) and, where necessary an Industry Standard Warning Notice and Label will be issued. Daniel Hodgson, Chairman of the GMS said "Hardly

a day goes by when we don't hear of some issue concerning untrained / badly trained sweeps and occasionally there are tragic consequences. This Industry Standard gives consumers a clear choice and we believe it will be quickly adopted".

The Industry Standard covers:

The training, practical and theory assessments of Chimney Sweeps, and covers Chimney Sweeping practices and techniques, approved tool kits, safe working practices, prevention and limitation of soot contamination during the sweeping process, current building regulations, procedures for documentation including the Industry Certificate of Chimney Sweeping and the reporting of unsafe and dangerous appliances and chimneys, complaints procedures, compliance with COSHH requirements, proof of identity, safe use of relevant Personal Protective Equipment, Public Liability Insurance cover.

There are only two organisations in the UK whose Members meet the requirements of the Industry Standard. Martin Glynn, NACS President advises that all Chimney Sweeps should adopt this Industry Standard and Certificate of Chimney Sweeping, which in turn raises the standards of Chimney Sweeping thus protecting the consumer at all times.

Finally

- Your Association will be implementing training sessions on the new Code of Practice & Certificate of Chimney Sweeping.
- Information sheets will also be available on how to meet the requirements of the new Code of Practice.
- This joint venture between the NACS & GMS is a positive step forward in helping to "Protect the Consumer"
- It also demonstrates that unity in working together benefits and enhances the role of the Chimney Sweep.
- All Chimney Sweeps have a duty of care to their customers and we the NACS & GMS must ensure our Members are fully competent in their work.
- This a major step forward initiated by the Chimney Sweep trade bodies to raise standards.

Martin P. Glynn
 President & Director of Public Relations

E: president@nacs.org.uk



COMING SOON....

details for the 2014





INDUSTRY CERTIFICATE OF CHIMNEY SWEEPING & NATIONAL CODE OF PRACTICE

NACS & GMS – working together & raising standards to protect the consumer



THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHIMNEY SWEEPS
'Helping to Protect the Consumer'

CERTIFICATE OF CHIMNEY SWEEPING

YOUR CHIMNEY HAS BEEN CLEANED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NATIONAL INDUSTRY STANDARD

Membership No.
Date of Issue
Time of Issue
Issued by

Your chimney requires re-sweeping within months, being (month) (year)

Chimneys with solid fuel appliances – Smokeless fuels – at least once per year / house coal – at least twice a year
Chimneys with wood burning appliances – Quarterly when in use - Chimneys with gas or oil appliances Once a year

Method of Sweeping: Line & Weight ☐ Brush & Rods ☐ Rotary Power Swept ☐ Viper & Star ☐

CHIMNEYS CANNOT BE CLEANED BY VACUUM ALONE - ONE OF THE ABOVE METHODS MUST BE USED

Type of appliance:
Fuel used (follow manufacturers instructions):
Deposit removed from flue:
DETAIL.....

| | ACCEPTABLE | NOT ACCEPTABLE | DETAIL |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Chimney pots/terminals: | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Condition of chimney stack (exterior): | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| CCTV Inspection carried out: (Optional) | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | Detail: |
| Carbon Monoxide Alarm Fitted | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | Detail: |
| Ventilation conforms to current regulations | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | Detail: |
| Result of Smoke Evacuation Check: | Pass <input type="checkbox"/> | Fail <input type="checkbox"/> | Detail: |

Comments
.....
.....
.....

I have read and understood the information supplied, and confirm the site has been left clean and tidy.

Customer Name: Signature

Address

Location Ref./Tel. No:

REGULAR CHIMNEY SWEEPING IS IMPORTANT FOR WHATEVER FUEL YOU MAY USE; COAL, WOOD, OIL OR GAS. ALWAYS USE THE SERVICES OF A PROFESSIONAL CHIMNEY SWEEP

Version A

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THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHIMNEY SWEEPS
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**INDUSTRY STANDARD
NATIONAL CODE OF PRACTICE FOR CHIMNEY SWEEPS**

The Approved Industry Standard Code of Practice for Chimney Sweeping:-
Chimney Sweeps must be trained in accordance with the Industry Recommended Criteria of both theory and practical elements of chimney sweeping at an Industry Accredited Training Centre. They shall not practice the trade of a Chimney Sweep until they have been assessed and deemed competent by a trade organisation who meets the Industry Standard National Code of Practice.

- It shall be the endeavour of such Chimney Sweeps involved, to provide as thorough and as honest a service available, with respect to the dangers of fire, suffocation and ill health caused by the malfunction of such chimneys, flue ways, and appliances.
- All Chimney Sweeps involved in such work shall by virtue of the hidden nature of the task advise and work so as to keep the occupier, user or property owner aware of such faults and hazards found during working. Under no circumstances shall a person trading as a Chimney Sweep, use any methods which result in a chimney not being properly cleaned or probed by a brush, or suitable rod attachments. Care must be taken to prove a chimney to be venting by the use of smoke pellets.

SWEEPING

- The practice of chimney sweeping shall be deemed to be the passing of an adequate sized and strength brush, appropriate to the diameter of the chimney and flue used, through the complete length of the chimney. The brush may be put through by rods, viper and star, a line and weights, or Rotary Sweeping equipment
- There is no acceptable method of cleaning a chimney using a vacuum cleaner only
- A Chimney Sweep must ensure that they carry a sufficient number of rods / line and weights or viper to ensure that the brush will pass the length of the chimney or flue completely
- Chimneys should be swept thoroughly with a brush or cleaning implement that is suitable to remove the products of combustion within the flue
- Before any sweeping commences, the immediate floor area and fireplace opening/appliance and/or any access points must be protected using suitable sealing methods, such as sheeting and foam blocks, to keep mess to the absolute minimum before and during the sweeping process
- All Chimney Sweeps must check there is adequate ventilation and carbon monoxide alarms in all the rooms containing the flues and appliances they have worked on, as defined in the Current Building Regulations (Document J / Scottish Building Regs etc)
- All problems and faults found during sweeping shall be made known to the person with whom the sweeping contract is made, property owner, or the operative of the appliance. All such problems and faults relating to the chimney or heating appliances shall be put in writing
- All Chimney Sweeps will endeavour to carry out a visual inspection of chimney stacks and flue terminations prior to the cleaning of such flues and appliances
- The Chimney Sweep must not undertake work on any chimney or appliance that is deemed unsafe or dangerous (in accordance with the current Health and Safety at Work Act). Evidence of the defect will be put in writing
- Soot from the sweeping process must be disposed of in an appropriate manner and will only be transported with the appropriate local authority's permission in the form of a waste carriage licence. Current COSHH statements must be carried in the vehicle
- All Chimney Sweeps must use appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) whilst undertaking their work and be trained in its use
- All Chimney Sweeps must adhere to their Trade Bodies complaints procedure
- All Chimney Sweeps must hold adequate insurance for the work they undertake
- All Chimney Sweeps must carry a valid I.D card

CERTIFICATION
After a chimney has been swept, the Chimney Sweep must issue an Industry Standard Certificate of Chimney Sweeping. Should any defects or dangerous occurrences arise, they must be recorded, an Industry Standard Warning Notice and label be issued, and records kept.

CONSUMER COMPLAINTS
In the event of a complaint concerning the work, it should, in the first instance be referred to the responsible firm or Sweep within seven days. If satisfactory response is not made, contact the appropriate Trade Organisation who will do its best to resolve such a complaint.

PLEASE NOTE
Very tarry chimneys present a higher risk of chimney fires even if swept regularly. Loose lining material may continue to fall, no matter how often the chimney is swept. Serious cases will need re-lining. Fire risk indicates a potential danger, which should be acted upon before the fire is lit again. The smoke evacuation check does not guarantee the integrity of the chimney. You should be particularly careful as to the condition of your flue and chimney if using solid fuel, oil or gas, and if you have any concerns in this regard please talk to your Sweep who will be delighted to do all he/she can to help. They will provide advice on smoke testing procedures and what tests may need to be carried out. Regular chimney sweeping is important to protect you and your home safely.

DISCLAIMER
The following information is given as part of the service provided by your Sweep. It is given in good faith, but as your Sweep can only carry out a brief visual inspection and has not investigated any inaccessible and/or concealed areas, the information must not be relied upon in any way. Chimneys are affected by the way they are used, the weather and many other conditions not known to your Sweep. If you have any safety concerns, please talk to your Sweep who will be delighted to do all he/she can to help. This is not a certificate of guarantee or warranty that any fireplace, heating appliance, boiler, flue or chimney stack is safe. Unless your Sweep is qualified to test the inaccessible and concealed areas of the flue, your Sweep cannot warrant that there are no potential defects in the flue or your chimney arising from fair wear and tear, wilful damage, accident, negligence by you or any third party, use otherwise as recommended by the manufacturer of the appliance, failure to follow the manufacturers instructions, or any alteration or repair carried out by you or any third party.

Certificate revised March 2013

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CHIMNEY SWEEP FINED £5,000 FOR PENSIONER'S DEATH



A Chimney Sweep has been sentenced after his failure to remove a bird's nest blocking a chimney flue led to the death of a pensioner in his South Wales home. Phillip Jones, of Porthcawl, was fined £5,000 and ordered to pay £2,500 in costs at Cardiff Crown Court following a prosecution by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

The court was told that 73-year-old retired miner Derwyn Rees of Maesteg Road, Llangynwyd, Maesteg had experienced problems keeping his solid fuel fire alight. Mr Jones, who has been a sweep for 25 years, was asked to sweep the chimney and carried out the work on 5 September 2008 while Mr Rees' sister, was away. The next day - Mr Rees' birthday - his neighbours noticed his curtains were still drawn and found him dead in his bed.

Following a police-led investigation an inquest in October 2010 revealed he died of carbon monoxide poisoning. Further investigations by HSE and a solid fuel specialist revealed an extensive bird's nest inside the chimney. Although Mr Jones had encountered a blockage of the chimney while sweeping, he did not check to see if his brush cleared the chimney pot which would indicate the blockage had been cleared. In addition, he failed to carry out a proper smoke test after completing the job, give advice to Mr Rees on ventilating the property or give any verbal or written warning.

HSE Inspector Stephen Jones, speaking after the hearing, said: "This was a tragic incident and a great shock for Mr Rees' sister and their local community. "Chimney sweeping is a vitally important job. Sadly Mr Rees paid for substandard work with his life. "Sweeps must ensure work is done thoroughly and householders are given full information about proper ventilation of their homes to ensure similar tragedies do not happen in the future." Mr Rees niece, Janet Jones, said: "Derwyn's death was an avoidable tragedy and has had a huge impact on the family. We hope this case sends a clear message to sweeps so that this sort of incident does not happen again and other people are not put at risk. "Every year around 15 people die from carbon monoxide poisoning and prolonged exposure can also lead to paralysis and brain damage."

Phillip Keith Jones, of Lakeview Close, Porthcawl,

pleaded guilty to a breach of Section 3 (2) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.

Martin P. Glynn, President of the National Association of Chimney Sweeps (NACS), said: "Anyone booking the services of a Chimney Sweep should only employ a registered and qualified sweep from the NACS or Guild of Master Chimney Sweeps (GMS). Members from both organisations work to a Code of Practice and issue a Certificate of Sweeping. It is always best practice to conduct smoke evacuation checks on chimneys and flues after chimney sweeping to ensure that they are left in a safe working order. This tragic case highlights the necessity of using a trained and competent Chimney Sweep who works to a professional standard as stipulated in the National Code of Practice. Unfortunately the Chimney Sweep in this incident was not registered or approved."

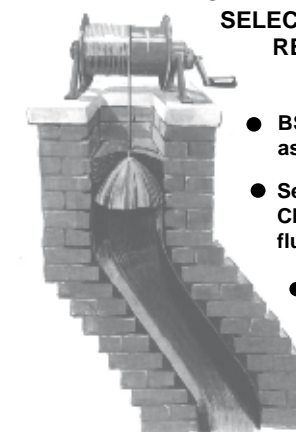
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NEW TECNOFLEX PLUS: THE BEST JUST GOT BETTER!

The latest version of TecnoFlex, the UK's leading chimney liner, has been launched by market leaders, Schiedel Chimney Systems. Designed with 20% greater flexibility and a unique lock design giving greater strength than previous liners, the product represents cutting edge technology in Chimney Lining systems, and sets a new bench mark for the industry. Manufactured exclusively at the Schiedel Rite-Vent factory at Washington, Tyne and Wear, TecnoFlex Plus will be available to see on the Schiedel stand B26 at the Hearth and Home exhibition in Harrogate from June 9th -11th.

"We have listened to the market feedback on flexible liners. Installers have been looking for more flexibility and greater strength – so we did something about it," says David Wright, Marketing Manager for Schiedel, "our engineers have worked in tandem with the machine manufacturers to come up with a new unique lock design on the joint, which has radically improved performance in both these key areas."

As the UK's leading manufacturer of Stainless Steel Chimney systems, Schiedel Rite-Vent has 45 years experience of manufacturing Stainless Steel chimneys, liners and accessories from their plant in Washington, Tyne and Wear.

For more information contact David Wright at Schiedel on 0191 416 1150.



MEET THE DIRECTOR & REGIONAL CHAIRMAN

How did you get into the business?

In 2000, I was made redundant from my current job in management of bars and nightclubs, and as my heart was no longer in it I decided I no longer wished to work in the pub industry. My brother, Paul Ross had been a Chimney Sweep for a few years and over a casual beer he asked me to give chimney sweeping a go in Portsmouth. I went out with Paul and he trained me to be safe and competent in the job. After gaining experience out on my own (with Paul always on the end of the phone to offer advice and encouragement), in 2002 I went to Stone and completed my NACS training course. In April of that year, CRG Chimney Sweeps was founded. At that time, everybody thought I was mad to leave my career and I must have been going through a mid life crisis and that sooner or later I would come to my senses. I proved them all wrong though, still going after 10 years, even if I have a few more greys!

What do you like the most about the business?

I enjoy being out and dealing with the public on a one to one basis, being my own boss and establishing long lasting relationships; seeing children grow and develop more and more every year I go back to sweep their chimney.

And the least?

I do not so much enjoy getting up on a freezing cold morning, in the dark and getting to my first job where the customer says: "I think I may have a small birds nest in the chimney", as 'small' they never are!

4. What accomplishments are you most proud of?

In the 10 years CRG has been going, I have won the Portsmouth small business of the year award, became a regional officer and was voted by the members to become part of the board of directors, I do consider these some of my greatest professional accomplishments

Complete this sentence: "I still can't get the hang of..."

I still can't get the hang of being at 20 places at the same time in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

Do you have a 'tip of the trade' that you would like to share?

For many months after I started out on my own, I found it a challenge at times to get the brush around the corners and bends of some chimneys, sometimes spending 10-15 minutes sweating and using some colourful language in my effort to overcome the problem. Until one day I was chatting to an old sweep and he gave me a simple solution that may ease my frustration, he told me to put a slight bend in the lead rod and that would help immensely. To this day, that must be the cheapest and most effective tool in my kit.

How do you like to relax after a long day/week/month?

I like to relax with a long bath and a glass of wine after a long day. I also like to try to play golf, which I don't do as much as I'd like but always manage to make my fellow players laugh and giggle and have a lot to talk about at the 19th hole!



Steven Ross-Girard

*Director & Regional Chairman
for the National Association of
Chimney Sweeps and of CRG
Chimney Sweep in Portsmouth*

Tell us something about yourself that we probably wouldn't know?

Something not many people know about me is that I'm a bit of a trekkie and own a federation captain's uniform, and possess a much cherished 3 dimensional chess set. Also, in 1996, I was one of the contestants on Southsea's karaoke challenge and sung an extract of tiger feet to over 6000 people on Southsea Common, which was recorded and later televised (no, you cannot see it!), I did stand out slightly as I was wearing an extremely bright and vivid green afro wig, but just want to mention that my footwork was amazing! When working at the Valient Trooper, it was next door to EMI recording studios, one evening leading up to Christmas in 1984 Noddy Holder, the lead singer in Slade came into the pub as I was singing his song 'Merry Christmas' and he told me not to give up my day job!

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NACS CHIMNEY WORKS TRADE SHOW..... MY EXPERIENCE!

Last year when I checked the dates of events going on in our trade for 2013 to see what would be of the most interest to me, the NACS Trade Show in Daventry, England April 19th & 20th appeared to be the most interesting. Vic Crompton, the NACS Technical Director, and I have been friends for a number of years, and it had been a few years since I had travelled across the pond to a NACS Trade Show, so I gave him a jingle. He gave me some additional information about the gathering, Jennie Lynn scheduled a flight, and in April I was airborne, en route to Manchester, England (via Paris) where Vic met me at the airport. He actually lives a short distance away in the historically picturesque English Town of Chorley - complete with the narrow cobble stone streets, little business shops and outdoor cafes. He and Rita live in a lovely all brick home, where the English St. George Flag was flying at half mast, honouring Margaret Thatcher's passing. I let it slide about the American Flag flying under the St. George flag - it was intended as a greeting, and it was the thought that counted. Maybe I'll send him another flag pole.

After a few days of bringing each other up to date, solving all the major problems in the world, ringing a few Bells, running into town for tea & biscuits, and negotiating some post cards for me to send back home (and newspapers for Lady Rita), it was then time for us to head to the NACS gathering. Just Vic and I this time, Rita chose to stay at home. "You know it's a man's thing Charlie" she said... "so you boys go on, and have a good time." Then she added... "Charlie, keep an eye on Vic, don't let him get into any trouble!" Is that like telling the fox to watch the hen house?

We left Thursday morning in his van, which get 40 miles plus, per gallon of fuel, running on batteries, propane and gasoline. A special order import he ordered directly from Japan. All the written instructions in its operation manual, and the lettering on the dash are in Japanese! And no, he doesn't read, write, or speak Japanese, but he manages (with the skills of a Samurai Warrior). Checking in at the Daventry Hotel a day early has its advantages. There was no rushed room check-in, better choice for room location, getting settled in, and then watching the new arrivals checking in the next day, while relaxing at the bar with a cool beer. I might add that while I was in the UK. I must have brought the California weather with me as it was sunny and warm.

At a dinner that Thursday night, the NACS Board of Directors fine tuned the operation for the Trade Show, Annual General Meeting, plus the Gala Dinner, including the awards and presentations. President, Martin Glynn, chaired the dinner meeting, but things were pretty much cut and dried, as Sally Caine (the NACS Office Manager) had all her ducks in a row for Friday's "Door Opening" to the Trade Show.

When the doors opened Friday morning Sally had things running like a train station - everything right on schedule and no glitches that I picked up on. The vendors were all in place and the auditorium was soon buzzing with greetings, hand shaking, and busy eyes scanning the wares. There is "no charge" for entrance to the trade show. This is good for the vendors, as it allows unrestricted availability to all its customers (not just members of NACS) to come visit, socialize and view their products. By late afternoon the count was semi in, and the numbers were high - much higher than had been expected for the first day.

The comments at the board dinner that night reflected the same comments as earlier mentioned. Additionally, it was mutually brought up and agreed upon that this was going to be a great gathering of UK chimney sweeps ever, better than ESCHFOE. It was definitely due to the leadership of the organization itself - the outstanding work being done by the staff, all the hard working volunteers, President Martin Glynn's lady Juni, Sally's husband David, her assistant Emily Huthwaite, Chairman Bob Leonard's wife Sara (working the NACS booth) - and many others too numerous to mention. The only disruption to our dinner that night was when an uninvited biker burst through the doors while we were eating (somewhat lit) looking for Elvis! Then Elvis - "Thank you very much" - appeared out of nowhere with a mob chasing behind him wanting him to sing and sign autographs. We just sat there with our mouths open while all this was going on, until they all ran out the other door yelling and screaming. I don't think management, or the police, ever caught up with the biker, or Elvis - the biker could have been Vic Crompton's double...only much younger! [I may have embellished a small part of this occurrence.]

Saturday was an even larger success and surprise than Friday. When the head count came in - it was over the top! The NACS personal, as well as the vendors, were all pleasantly surprised and impressed with the numbers. Everyone was well pleased with the turn out, the vendors enjoyed all the foot traffic and stops by their booths for both days. I saw a lot of orders being written, a lot of happy faces on NACS Staff and members, vendors and visitors alike. I'm sure NACS signed on a number of new members as well!

For me, there was one major show stopper this year - FuranFlex (www.furanflex.com or www.kompozitalluk.com). You must sit down for this one! The product would remind you of a rubber bladder type tube that you pull through (top

down or bottom up) the chimney and fireplace system. You then cap off at the top, pump it full of hot steam to inflate the tube, let it cool/harden - and you have a complete chimney flue liner system. Depending on the bladder you use, it can be connected to "any" solid fuel, gas, oil or other fuel heating system! Now that is impressive! The system is not a cheap date, but a good date. With that having been said, I shall say no more...but check it out, impressive!

There was a terracotta wine cooler/chimney pot, made by W.T. Knowles & Sons Ltd. in Elland, England - now how neat is that? They have been making standard and custom chimney pots and related items since 1906, and I do believe they may be the largest supplier of chimney pots and related item in the UK. Next time I pop over I've been invited to stop by to say hello - they mentioned that they could easily make a custom chimney pot I have in mind.

The trade show started breaking down around 2:00 pm, the same area was to be used later (and expanded into another rooms as well) for the formal reception, photos, and the Gala Dinner that evening. Most everyone drifted off (except staff), to have lunch or some liquid refreshment ... and maybe take a kip (nap) - I took a kip!

The Paterson Clan in the lobby for a photo shot before dinner (in their kilts) was a refreshing and striking contrast of the old and the new. The two families and some friends of theirs all stood together for some photos. Ian Paterson (Kenny and Charlotte's son) now seems to be slowly taking over more and more responsibilities for their clan's business operation and clan concerns. Jennie Lynn and I have watched their family clan grow. It's a real pleasure to see them at chimney sweep gatherings - and I'm sure I'll be seeing some of them in Santa Maria Maggiore this August. Ian, Sheila, Chloe and Ian James, are the new, younger breed of International Chimney Sweep Travellers!

Dinner was great as usual - awards and recognitions were given, the raffle (with some super items - no TV this year), and then it was party hardy to the disco beat ... and of course some Oldies & Goodies. As for me, I faded early, only one or two beers. I have a hard time keeping pace with Vic. He is a power house of raw unleashed energy and a nonstop dynamo. When he told me that he wanted to be on the road right after an early breakfast (to beat the Sunday traffic) that actually meant ... have it together and ready to roll by 8:30 am! I'm sure he would have left me behind had I not been packed and ready to go when he arrived in the lobby with his bag packed in one hand, and the keys to his van in the other! I was ready to go, and so we departed per schedule! I have noticed a lot of chimney sweep tattoos lately posted on the internet, Facebook, etc. Ian Paterson has one of the Scottish flag and also their business logo - which is a chimney sweep. My mate (Ron Clark) also had a new tattoo of a chimney sweep, and another friend (Ruas Musner) in Germany also has one of a chimney sweep on a bicycle (also his logo) and another tattoo for Florian, his son - St. Florian is also the Patron Saint of Chimney Sweeps and Firefighters.

That was Sunday morning. The following Monday morning Vic dropped me at the Manchester Airport, and I was on my way to Nuremberg, Germany (via Paris) for a visit with Stephan & Monika Kerkhoff at "Meusel" in Lichtenfels, Germany.

Until the next time, enjoy your life, and work safe.

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No, this isn't a quiz show and neither is it a well-known cooking programme or the latest board game to play or quiz page to complete, just the world of clay chimney pots according to W T Knowles & Sons Ltd.

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where these were essential to increase draw and keep the home fires burning but to not be visible from the skies at night. Whether it is straight or round or if your base is square, round or rectangular or if you need Classic Terracotta, Hard-wearing Salt-Glazed, Buff or Black, we have got what you need.

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