

## 2026 Grinnell Farmers Market Rules & Regulations

### CHAMBER REPRESENTATIVES:

Lauren Emge & Rachael Kinnick: [farmersmarket@getintogrinnell.com](mailto:farmersmarket@getintogrinnell.com) or 641-236-6555

### RULES POLICY:

Rules are implemented and enforced by the Market Managers and the Chamber Staff. The aforementioned individuals are the final arbiter of all market happenings. Failure to comply with the following rules or the direction of the Market Manager will mean the loss of the vendor's privilege to sell at the Grinnell Farmers Market. Requests for rule changes must be made via a written request to [farmersmarket@getintogrinnell.com](mailto:farmersmarket@getintogrinnell.com) or sent to the offices at 833 4th Ave. Adjustments are not guaranteed. Rules are adjusted annually.

### WHERE:

The Grinnell Farmers Market, overseen by the Grinnell Area Chamber of Commerce, is an open-air market and is a 100% producer market. The market is a community based event where the Poweshiek County community is able to purchase quality items that are home grown or handcrafted in Iowa and a place for area growers and handcrafters to sell their wares. Sale of antiques, used items, unoriginal craft, pets, poultry, or livestock will not be allowed.

### WHEN:

The 2026 Farmers Market will be on Thursdays from 3 to 6:00 PM and Saturdays from 9:30 AM to noon. The Farmers Market will be located along the sidewalk on Broad Street from 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Commercial Street and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue from Broad to Park Street. Please note market locations may be adjusted due to community events and/or construction. All full time vendors will be accommodated in those adjustments and part time stalls may be limited on those occasions. Chamber staff will work to give vendors as much notice as possible if/when an adjustment to market must occur.

### MARKET SEASON:

Thursday Market: May 14-October 15

Saturday Market: May 16-October 17

### FEES:

THURSDAY OR SATURDAY: Each stall will have a daily rate of \$18.00 or \$130 per stall for the season.

BOTH THURSDAY AND SATURDAY: Each stall will have a rate of \$200 for the season.

### REFUNDS:

- FULL TIME: vendors will not be refunded if they choose to end their season early or miss a large amount of markets.
- PART TIME: vendors will not be refunded if they choose to not attend the markets they signed up and prepaid for. If a vendor wants to reschedule and apply their fee to a different date chamber staff will work to accommodate them, if possible.

## **MARKET INFORMATION:**

### **FULL TIME VENDORS:**

Vendors wishing to become full-time vendors should submit their application to the Grinnell Area Chamber of Commerce, 833 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, P.O. Box 538, Grinnell, Iowa 50112 on or before closing on April 24, 2026. Applications and payments submitted after this date are not guaranteed a full time stall. If you have questions, please contact the Grinnell Chamber Office at 641-236-6555 or email [farmersmarket@getintogrinnell.com](mailto:farmersmarket@getintogrinnell.com). Reservations and payments may be made in person, online, or by mail on or before May 1, 2026. Checks should be made payable to the Grinnell Chamber of Commerce. Vendors who wish to have stalls next to one another should denote that on their applications. If two different vendors wish to share a stall space they should sign up at the same time and pay the fee for the number of stalls requested. An application is required to be on file for each vendor.

### **PART TIME VENDORS:**

There will be limited space for part-time vendors selling on a per market basis. These part time vendors should apply and pay each week, and are required to read, understand the Rules & regulation, complete an application and hold harmless, and pay the Market Manager before setting up their tables. If a part-time vendor attends market three (3) times in the season, an inspection of property may be done, if applicable, to ensure products are 100% producer-made.

**Part-time vendors should reserve one of the available part-time slots before Monday at noon (for Thursday market) or Wednesday at noon (for Saturday market) of that week by emailing [farmersmarket@getintogrinnell.com](mailto:farmersmarket@getintogrinnell.com), stopping in at the Grinnell Area Chamber of Commerce or by calling 641-236-6555. *Reservations after this time are not guaranteed a spot.* Part time vendors will be notified of their stall location by end of day Wednesday for a Thursday market and by end of day Friday for a Saturday market.**

### **STALLS:**

A stall shall not exceed twelve (12) feet across the front and straight back in at a ninety (90) degree angle. No one will be allowed to use someone else's stall unless the person who purchased the use of that stall has notified the Chamber they will not be attending market that week OR unless they are an employee of one of the vendors.

If a full-time vendor knows in advance they will be gone for certain markets, please notify the Chamber Representative so the layout can be adjusted accordingly. Full time market vendors are asked to notify chamber staff of an absence by Wednesday at noon for Thursday markets and Friday at noon for Saturday markets; should this timeline not be met, a fine of \$18 may be incurred. (Exemptions can be made for emergency circumstances). This allows staff to fill in part time vendors or condense markets due to missing vendors.

If a full-time vendor does not attend for three (3) consecutive weeks, the other vendors may be consolidated to fill the gap from the missing vendor. Should the vendor return for another market, they will be placed in an available spot and their original spot will continue to be occupied with another vendor.

Full time vendors commit to attending at least 60% of markets (10 Thursday markets, 10 Saturday markets) for the 2026 season (excluding the months of May & October) or they will not be eligible to attend the 2027 season as a full time vendor. If an extenuating circumstance occurs, please notify staff by calling the office at 641-236-6555.

#### ASSIGNMENT OF STALLS:

Stalls will be assigned by chamber staff's discretion with the focus of highlighting the variety of products and ensuring vendors who have the same product are not placed right next to one another. Stall assignments will also be based on past market attendance to ensure the market is full and inviting to customers.

#### TERMINATION POLICY:

A written notice will initially be given to any vendor not following the set rules of the Grinnell Farmers Market by a Chamber Representative. If the problem continues after the written notice has been issued, the vendor may be dismissed from the market as deemed necessary by Chamber staff. Refunds will not be made to vendors dismissed from the market.

If a vendor receives a food safety violation via the state, the product in question will no longer be allowed to be sold at market by that vendor. A food safety violation is also considered a written notice and the next issue may result in vendors dismissal from market with no refunds given.

#### NOTICE OF PHOTOGRAPHIC & MEDIA RECORDING:

When you attend the Grinnell Farmers Market or a Grinnell Area Chamber of Commerce event, photo, audio, and video recording may occur. By attending this event, you consent to such recording media and your image and likeness being used in connection with the promotion, advertising, and/or marketing of the Grinnell Area Chamber of Commerce, the Grinnell Farmers Market and the Grinnell Community. If you have any questions regarding this policy, please contact the Chamber at 641-236-6555.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION & RULES (applicable to ALL vendors):**

1. Items for sale must be 100% grown or made by the vendor (including immediate family members (spouse, grandparents, parents, siblings and children) and employees). All items must be made or grown in Iowa. No exceptions will be made. For non-food items, inputs may be purchased but the final product must be your own creation. For example, knitters may knit sweaters – the yarn would qualify as the input.
2. Vendors may begin to set up their tables two hours before the market begins (no parking issues will be addressed until one and one half hours prior to the start of market). No sales, other than vendor to vendor purchases, may be made or products held back for customers prior to the opening signal of the market. The Grinnell Farmers Market is a certified SNAP market which means we must adhere to a start time that is advertised to SNAP participants. Failure to adhere to the start time may strip the Grinnell Farmers Market of our SNAP certified standing. If a vendor is seen making sales prior to the start

of market they will be issued a written warning. If selling prior to the start of market continues, the vendor may be asked to leave market and no refunds will be given.

- a. If a pre-sale was made at a prior market (payment was exchanged), a customer may pick up the product ahead of market; however, if no payment was exchanged at the time of order, the product may not be picked up and paid for until after the start of market.
3. Vendors may register for a maximum of 3 stalls. You may check the box indicating you are interested in another stall, but no guarantees of additional stalls will be made.
4. Vendors shall furnish their own tables, chairs, and canopies, and keep their areas clean. Canopies **must** be weighted or somehow secured, and under no circumstance shall canopies be left unattended. Canopies should be no more than twelve (12) feet wide. The chamber has a limited number of tents, tables and chairs that can be rented daily for a market. The vendor will be responsible for picking up the rentals from the office and transporting them themselves or can additionally pay a delivery fee to the rentals to be brought and picked up from their stall. Vendors will be responsible for setting up and taking down their rentals and returning them to the Chamber office.
  - a. Table \$10.00
  - b. Chair \$5.00
  - c. Tent \$25.00
  - d. Delivery Fee \$20.00
5. Tables will be set up on the sidewalk, and tents are able to span the sidewalk leaving enough room for wheelchair users to safely navigate the market. Vendors are asked to center their stalls in the middle of the space to leave room between vendors if possible. Stalls will be clearly marked on the curb.
6. Restrooms in the park shelter house will be open for vendor and customer use.
7. Each vendor is responsible for filing state sales tax permits where applicable. Generally, edibles are exempt if they are not sold as food for immediate consumption. Flowers, plants, and handcrafted items are subject to tax. Contact the Iowa Department of Revenue & Finance at phone number 515-281-3114 with any questions or forms. There is no fee for the Farmers Market Permit.
8. Vendors must provide an email address to be used for frequent communications from Chamber and Market Managers.
9. Informational booths will be limited to one stall per partner organization. A limited number of informational booths will be allowed at each market.
10. All Vendors will be required to sign a hold harmless agreement.
11. Any fundraising activities or promotions advertised at a market booth or registered for a market booth must have a direct, local tie for support. All fundraising efforts must align with the market's mission and values, and organizers must provide proof of their

non-profit status and location upon request. Non-profit organizations must comply with any local, state, or federal regulations related to fundraising and charitable activities.

12. Any vendor participating in SNAP-related transactions acknowledges that they are aware of which products qualify as allowable transactions, [specifically noting changes in the law](#) as effective January 1, 2026.

### **GENERATORS AT MARKET:**

Vendors may not operate generators at the market without prior written approval from market management, submitted at least 30 days before the first market day. All generators must be tested for decibel level prior to approval and the start of market; testing times should be coordinated with market staff.

Generators must operate quietly at peak load, not exceeding 70 decibels of sound and must be positioned in a way that directs noise away from neighboring vendors' stalls. The suggested generator is a Honda EU 22001 or equivalent. Market management may measure noise and may require a generator to be turned off if it exceeds the limit or is otherwise disruptive as determined by market management.

Vendors are responsible for safe fueling, operation, and maintenance, including using approved fuels and not refueling while running. Use of low-noise or inverter generators, mufflers, acoustic barriers, or market-provided electrical hookups is encouraged. Repeated violations of noise, placement, or safety rules may result in revocation of generator approval or removal from the market for the day.

### **INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS:**

Food trucks/mobile food units are required to carry and maintain commercial general liability of a minimum of \$500,000 per occurrence.

- The Grinnell Area Chamber of Commerce must be listed as an additional insured.
- A copy of insurance certificate is required on-file in order to participate at market.

Cottage Foods/Home Foods Processing Establishments (HPFE) are strongly encouraged, though not required, to hold a commercial general liability policy with a minimum of \$100,000.

- If a vendor obtains this policy, they shall provide a copy to the market.
- *Under this policy, it is noted that a vendor is fully liable should an issue arise.*

### **FOOD VENDOR RULES:**

1. Allowable food items can include fresh locally grown vegetables, fruit, garden produce, home-made baked goods, fruit jams and jellies (acceptable if listed on the Code of Federal Regulations Title 21, Part 150), honey, and eggs if kept at 45 degrees or less.

Specific items which cannot be sold include non-Iowa grown fresh fruits and/or vegetables, jams and jellies not listed in the CFR 20.150, homemade butter or cottage cheese, raw milk. Soft pies and bakery products with custard or cream fillings, meats and meat products may only be sold if licensed by and following rules set by the state. See “Home Foods Processing Establishment License” for more details about temperature controlled foods

2. Products purchased for resale at the market are not allowed, i.e. no brokering. Site inspections may occur at any point during the season. The vendor shall provide direction to the production site and grant permission for any inspection of the production site within 72 hours of notification by the Grinnell Area Chamber of Commerce.
3. All sales must be by container, item or by weight. Scales must be state certified, and if a vendor sells by weight the certified NTEP scale should be present at market. Certification card for scale should be present and a sticker must be on the scale. Contact the Iowa Department of Weights and Measures, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship at 515-725-1493 with questions.
4. Vendors shall display signage at their booths or on individual items to identify each available item by price, unit and/or weight. This is mandatory for all baked good items as well and should include an ingredient list, listing from most to least. More details under Cottage Foods section.
5. TEMP CONTROLLED FOODS: Anyone wishing to sell temperature control for safety foods needs to have a “Home Foods Processing Establishment License” issued by the Iowa Department of Inspections & Appeals; 515-281-6538. A copy of this license must be provided to chamber staff prior to the start of market season.
  - a. Classification of foods according to the DIA can be found at [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1t573biXUcqbpPqFbJNpZH8Czfgd0MP\\_xYrSQkpfkg/edit?gid=99813278#gid=99813278](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1t573biXUcqbpPqFbJNpZH8Czfgd0MP_xYrSQkpfkg/edit?gid=99813278#gid=99813278)
  - b. Visit here to learn more about an HFPE license: [Home Food Processing Establishments | Department of Inspections, Appeals, & Licensing](#) or call 515-281-6538
6. COTTAGE FOODS: Cottage foods are permitted to be sold market with the following requirements:
  - a. **TYPES**: Classification of foods according to the DIA can be found at [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1t573biXUcqbpPqFbJNpZH8Czfgd0MP\\_xYrSQkpfkg/edit?gid=99813278#gid=99813278](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1t573biXUcqbpPqFbJNpZH8Czfgd0MP_xYrSQkpfkg/edit?gid=99813278#gid=99813278)
  - b. **CERTIFICATION**: Vendors are REQUIRED to complete the Home-Based Kitchen Operations: Regulations and Food Safety Course through Iowa State University Extension & Outreach.
    - i. Certificate of completion must be presented to chamber staff prior to being accepted into the market season. Course can be found at <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/humansciences/home-food-operation>

- ii. This course has been updated to include HF 2431. Courses completed PRIOR to July 1, 2022 will NOT be accepted.
    - iii. Vendor is responsible for the course fee.
  - c. **REQUIRED PAPERWORK**: Any vendors selling cottage food products that require batch logs must have logs available at each market for inspection from chamber staff or market managers.
  - d. **LABELING REQUIREMENTS**: All cottage food vendors must meet the following labeling requirements ON EACH PRODUCT.
    - i. Information to identify the name and address, phone number or email address of the person preparing the food;
    - ii. The common name of the food;
    - iii. The ingredients of the cottage food in descending order of predominance. This includes ingredients of and prepackaged food used to create the food to be sold (ex: all the ingredients of a canned pie filling must be listed on the pie ingredient list)
    - iv. The following statement: “This product was produced at a residential property that is exempt from state licensing and inspection.”;
    - v. If the cottage food contains one or more major food allergens, an additional allergen statement must be included on the label identifying each major allergen contained in the food by the common name of the allergen; and
    - vi. If the food is home-processed and/or home-canned ex: pickles, vegetables, or fruits permitted under this section, breads, spices, freeze dried items, etc the date that the food was processed and canned must be on the label
  - e. Find more information about Cottage Food can be found here: <https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/food-hotels/cottage-foods#prohibited-items>
7. Food Trucks/Trailers MUST present a copy of your license from the Iowa Department of Inspections & Appeals. (There are 4 different licenses available).
- a. Mobile Food Unit License (\$250), Farmers Market License (\$150), Annual Temporary Food Establishments (\$200), or Single-Event Temporary Food Establishment (\$50)
    - i. Each of these licenses offer different durations of validity and processes to apply.
    - ii. Chamber does not have ability to assist in food truck licensing, please direct all questions to 515-725-5342 or [FCS-Licensing@dia.iowa.gov](mailto:FCS-Licensing@dia.iowa.gov)
    - iii. Vendor is responsible for licensing fee, in addition to market vendor fees. Copy of license must be presented at time of application.
  - b. Space for food trucks is limited, preference will be given to full time vendors. Food trucks are required to pay for the number of stalls they will require (e.g. trailer is 27 ft; 3 stalls are required to accommodate). Please inquire about desired dates prior to registering for the market to ensure space is available on your dates. Date inquiries should be made by calling the Chamber offices at 641-236-6555.

- c. Food trucks over 24 feet long may not be eligible for market due to our set up-exceptions may be made based on market attendance. Please inquire.
8. WIC-certified vendors shall not accept IFMNP vouchers for the following: non-locally grown fresh fruits, and/or vegetables, processed fruit or vegetables such as fruit jams/jellies, popcorn, juices/ciders, baked goods of any kind, including fruit pies and breads, dried beans/peas, flowers, honey (accepted under senior program), herbs, eggs, ornamental corn, miniature pumpkins, gourds, nuts and plants. For more reference, please look at the backs of said checks before you make a sale. If you have any questions regarding this, contact WIC and Senior Programs specialist at 515-242-5015.
  - a. FMNP Certificate training will take place at ISU Extension on March 26 & April 30 from 9-10 AM at the Extension office (114 S 3rd St in Montezuma). Call 641-623-5188 or email [aalathia@iastate.edu](mailto:aalathia@iastate.edu) to register
9. The Grinnell Farmers Market, as a whole, accepts SNAP & EBT transactions along with Grinnell Grocery Vouchers through a token system in which all vendors must participate. Certain requirements are applicable for SNAP & DUFEB tokens; however, all vendors must accept the credit/debit tokens.
  - a. Vendors wanting to accept SNAP Benefits & EBT cards individually, must be certified. Contact the USDA, Food and Drug Administration Department at 515-284-4035, or find further information and apply at [www.fns.usda.gov](http://www.fns.usda.gov).
10. Vendors should participate in the GAP Preparation Training (Good Agricultural Practice): <https://safeproduce.cals.iastate.edu/iowa-gap-program>
  - a. For any licenses or certifications (i.e. GAP, Certified Organic, etc.) a vendor claims, documentation must be available at each market for customers, inspectors, market management, et al to view if requested.
11. Vendors wishing to give free product samples at market should follow food-safety precautions, including proper washing and cleanliness (e.g. wearing gloves) to handle these foods.
13. Recycled egg cartons must clearly display vendor name and contact information on all cartons.
14. Products sold by vendors are required to be fresh and of upstanding quality. Any vendor who is found to be selling expired, undercooked or moldy products may be asked to withdraw products, could be asked to leave and may not be eligible to return to market. No refunds will be granted if a vendor is asked to leave due to quality issues.
15. Per updates from the FDA to Code of Federal Regulations Part 150 -- Fruit Butters, Jellies, Preserves, and related products, jams and jellies can only use Nutritive Carbohydrate Sweeteners to sweeten products. Nutritive Sweeteners include; Agave, Fructose, High-Fructose Corn Syrup, and Honey. Vendors cannot use non-nutritive sweeteners including acesulfame-K, aspartame, neotame, saccharin, sucralose, and stevia or other non-approved ingredients.

- a. More information on Code 150:  
<https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cfcr/cfrsearch.cfm?fr=150.160>
  - b. More Information Nutritive Carbohydrate Sweeteners:  
<https://www.nal.usda.gov/fnic/nutritive-and-nonnutritive-sweetener-resources>
16. WILD HARVESTED MUSHROOMS The only wild-harvested mushrooms eligible for sale in Iowa are; Morel, Oyster, Chicken of the Woods, Hen of the Woods, Chanterelle, Bear’s Head Tooth, Lion’s Mane, Pheasant Back and Black Trumpet. A Food Establishment or Farmers Market License is required to sell the approved types of mushrooms. A copy of this license must be submitted to the Chamber prior to the sale of these products at market.
- a. More information can be found at
    - i. <https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/food-hotels/farmers-markets>
    - ii. <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/iac/chapter/481.31.pdf>
17. CONSUMABLE HEMP: Any vendor wishing to sell consumable hemp products must provide the required certification, retail registration and documentation from the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals & Department of Health & Human Services. For the full information about becoming a consumable hemp vendor visit <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/204.pdf>
- a. More information can be found at
    - i. <https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/food-hotels/farmers-markets>
    - ii. <https://hhs.iowa.gov/programs/programs-and-services/consumable-hemp> or call 1-877-214-9313
    - iii. <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/204.pdf>
18. **\*\*LICENSING RESOURCES\*\*** Here is a list of all different licenses offered, their application process, associated fees and products covered  
<https://dia.iowa.gov/food/business-licensing>
19. If a vendor would like to have an open flame/grill at market special permission from the Chamber must be obtained prior and certain safety requirements will need to be met.

### **PET FOOD/TREAT RULES:**

1. Homemade pet food and treats must be approved through the USDA prior to selling at market. Recipes and ingredient lists will need to be available to customers at time of purchase. Proof of approval must be submitted to the chamber.
  - a. More information about Pet Food Registration in Iowa:  
<https://iowaagriculture.gov/sites/default/files/feeds/Commercial%20Fertilizer/Pet%20Food%20Summary.pdf>

## **NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION & OTHER VENDOR RULES:**

1. All General Information & Rules Apply
2. Nonprofit organizations - who have a direct tie to Grinnell or the surrounding area - may sell fundraising items at the discretion of the market management. The non-profit organization will be responsible for paying a market fee and is subject to the rules and regulations of the market, the exception of 'Made in Iowa' may be made with approval of a Chamber Representative.
3. Musicians, with the approval of the Chamber Representative, will be allowed to play for tips. They will not be charged a market fee.
4. The Chamber reserves the right to waive the fee at its discretion for a non-profit providing education or entertainment for customers.
5. Political parties will not be allowed to promote individual parties/candidates at market. General voter registration is allowed. See Chamber Hosted Elected Official policy for more details.

### Organizational Contact Information:

- Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship: 515-281-5321 or [weightsandmeasures@iowaagriculture.gov](mailto:weightsandmeasures@iowaagriculture.gov)
- Iowa Department of Revenue & Finance: 515-281-3114
- Iowa Department of Inspections & Appeals: 515-725-5342
- Consumable Hemp - Iowa Department of Inspection & Appeals: 515-829-8899
- USDA, Food & Drug Administration: 515-284-4035
- WIC & Senior Programs: 515-242-6239
- Food Truck/Mobile Food Units: 515-281-6538

## Grinnell Farmers Market Code of Conduct 2026:

All vendors, including any support staff and/or family, agree to follow the code of conduct. Violation of these rules may result in immediate termination of the vendor's privilege to sell at the Grinnell Farmers Market and may impact their ability to sell at future markets. If a vendor is terminated, no refunds will be made.

- The primary vendor is always responsible for behaviors and/or actions of those selling on behalf of their booth.
- There will be no smoking, drugs, or alcoholic beverages consumed or used by vendors during market set up, official market hours, or market tear down.
- Vendors shall be courteous to other vendors and customers and shall not engage in activities that make other vendors and/or the public uncomfortable.
- Vendors are not permitted to use the following techniques while at market: hawking, calling attention to products in a loud manner, selling products in an aggressive way, or denigrating the product of other vendors.
- Use of electricity must be pre-approved by market staff.
- No music may be playing from your station or other device, unless prior approval has been gained by managers or staff.
- Vendors shall conduct business free of bias, prejudice and harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, immigration status, age, disability, genetic information, marital status, amnesty or status as a cover veteran.
- Vendors are encouraged to report any and all perceived incidents of discrimination, harassment, or accidents that occur at market. Vendors are prohibited from retaliation against any individual who reports discrimination, harassment, or accidents or who participates in an investigation of such reports.
- Vendors acknowledge and agree that changes and updates may be made during the season and those changes will be notified to you.
- Vendors acknowledge and agree not to represent the voice of the market, officially or unofficially, or speak on behalf of the market in any capacity.
- I have read and fully agree to all [Grinnell Farmers Market Rules and Regulations](#). I agree to sell or offer for sale at the Grinnell Farmers Market my own Iowa-based products. Further, I acknowledge full responsibility for all activities, my actions, and the actions of my support staff and/or family conducted throughout the term of this permit and agree to hold harmless the Grinnell Area Chamber of Commerce in any event, or accident in connection with the operation of the Grinnell Farmers Market.

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Vendor Signature

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Date