

FOR OWNERS, ARCHITECTS AND SPECIFIERS

Model specification language

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1. What this is, and the state it is published in

Three variants of a quality-requirements article for a project manual, in ascending strength. They are drafted to sit at Section 01 43 00, 1.5 QUALIFICATIONS, and to be adopted, renamed, modified or stripped of every reference to this register without asking anybody.

The register currently holds no Transmission Records and no entries. Variant C, which makes standing mandatory, would therefore exclude every bidder alive and must not be adopted by anybody today. It is published so that the language exists, is public, and can be argued with before anyone has an interest in the answer. Variant A requires nothing from the register at all and can be adopted on a project bidding next month.

2. What the article makes visible

A project manual already asks a bidder to evidence licensure, insurance, bonding and comparable completed work. It does not ask the question that decides whether the trade will exist in fifteen years: who is going to do this work, who taught them, and are they teaching anyone.

On a building whose repair depends on a trade the federal statistical system does not count — and ninety of the register's 133 published terms reach no federal occupation code at all — the owner carries a succession risk that nothing in the procurement record currently surfaces. Variant A surfaces it at no cost and with no gatekeeping.

It also produces the only thing this register cannot manufacture: a reason for a practitioner to be on it. That is stated here because a specifier is entitled to know what adopting the article does for the body that drafted it.

3. Variant A — disclosure

Lowest strength. Adoptable immediately. Asks the question and does nothing with the answer. Requires no register standing and creates no barrier to any bidder.

SECTION 01 43 00 - QUALITY REQUIREMENTS

Insert at 1.5 QUALIFICATIONS.

- A. TRANSMISSION DISCLOSURE. For each Section of the Work identified in Paragraph D, the Contractor shall identify, before commencement of that Section, the individual who will perform or directly supervise the Work, and shall state:
 - 1. the number of years that individual has performed the trade;
 - 2. from whom that individual learned it, and approximately when; and
 - 3. whether that individual is presently teaching it to a named other.
- B. No qualification, certification or register standing is required by this Article. The disclosure is for the Owner's record and does not form a basis for rejection of a bid.
- C. The Owner may, at its discretion, publish the disclosure as part of the project record.
- D. Sections to which this Article applies: [LIST SECTIONS]

4. Variant B — preference

Recommended once the register holds entries in the relevant trade. Gives a preference among otherwise equal bidders and makes absence of standing expressly non-disqualifying. Paragraph D carries the disclaimer the Standard requires on every use of the mark.

SECTION 01 43 00 - QUALITY REQUIREMENTS

Insert at 1.5 QUALIFICATIONS.

- A. TRANSMISSION STANDING - PREFERRED. For each Section of the Work identified in Paragraph E, the Owner will give preference, among otherwise responsive and responsible bidders, to a bidder who furnishes evidence that the individual who will perform or directly supervise the Work holds standing on the Root & Branch Register, or is named on a Transmission Record issued under the Root & Branch Transmission Standard, current version.
- B. Evidence is a Lineage Number and the Record identifier, both of which resolve publicly and permanently at rootandbranchregister.org.
- C. Absence of standing is not a basis for rejection. A bidder who does not hold standing shall instead furnish the disclosure at Paragraph A of the Transmission Disclosure Article.
- D. The Register does not assess skill, license any person to practice, certify competence, or warrant workmanship. Standing evidences that a transmission was recorded and attested; it evidences nothing further, and the Owner shall not treat it as a substitute for licensure, insurance, references or examination of the Work.
- E. Sections to which this Article applies: [LIST SECTIONS]

5. Variant C — requirement

Strongest. Not adoptable today. Paragraph D is the one that matters: a record filed by the parties themselves under the Standard's Open Filing route satisfies the article, so adopting it can never oblige anybody to purchase anything from the Registrar. Paragraph C requires a written waiver, retained in the project record, wherever nobody holding standing is available — which is presently everywhere.

SECTION 01 43 00 - QUALITY REQUIREMENTS

Insert at 1.5 QUALIFICATIONS.

- A. TRANSMISSION STANDING - REQUIRED. For each Section of the Work identified in Paragraph F, the individual who performs or directly supervises the Work shall hold standing on the Root & Branch Register as of the date of the bid and shall maintain it for the duration of the Work.
- B. Evidence is a Lineage Number that resolves publicly at rootandbranchregister.org. The Contractor shall furnish it with the bid.
- C. Where no individual holding standing is available for a Section, the Contractor shall so state, and the requirement is waived for that Section on the Owner's written acknowledgment. The statement shall be retained in the project record.
- D. A record filed by the parties themselves under the Standard's Open Filing route satisfies this Article. The Owner shall not require that a record be purchased from any party.
- E. The Register does not assess skill, license any person to practice, certify competence, or warrant workmanship. This Article shall not be read to shift to the Register any obligation of the Contractor or of any design professional.
- F. Sections to which this Article applies: [LIST SECTIONS]

6. What to ask a bidder, with no register involved

These carry no reference to this register and require nothing from it. They are the questions the conformance trial asks, reduced to what an owner can put to a contractor at prequalification. Adopt them without adopting anything else.

Ask	What a good answer looks like
Who specifically will perform or directly supervise this Section?	A named individual, not a firm. If the firm cannot name one at bid, that is the answer.
How long have they done this trade, and from whom did they learn it?	A name and an approximate year. Vagueness here is common and is itself informative.
Have they worked at it continually, or were there breaks?	Breaks are ordinary. An unacknowledged break is a different risk profile.
Is anyone presently learning this from them, and how often do they work together?	The succession question. A trade held by one person with no successor is a single point of failure in the building's maintenance, on a horizon longer than the warranty.
If that individual were unavailable, who else could perform this Section?	Two names is comfortable, one is a risk, none is a finding worth recording.

7. What the article does not do

- It does not assess skill, license any person to practice, certify competence, or warrant workmanship. Variants B and C carry that as an express paragraph, and it should not be edited out.
- It does not shift any obligation of the Contractor or of a design professional to the Register. Variant C, Paragraph E, says so.
- It does not require anything to be bought. Variant C, Paragraph D, preserves the free Open Filing route expressly, and §15 of the Standard forbids the Registrar from charging for standing at all.
- It does not create a cause of action against the Registrar. The Register publishes what was attested and by whom; it makes no representation about the Work.

8. What follows

Adopt Variant A on one project and keep the answers. It costs nothing, excludes nobody, and produces a record of who actually holds the trades a building depends on. If the answers are dull, the article has cost an afternoon. If a Section comes back with one name and no successor, the owner has learned something the rest of the procurement file could not tell them.

A modified version is wanted. If the language is wrong for a jurisdiction, a delivery method or a class of owner, the corrected version is more useful than the original and will be published as such, with or without attribution as the author prefers.

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