

FIELD KIT

Succession Zero

Everything needed to make the register's first record: the forms the Standard requires, and the operating guidance it deliberately does not carry. A specification says what a conforming record contains. It does not say what to do when a master says "you just know." That is what this is for.

The rule that governs all of it

The Instrument asks and a named person asserts (§3.11). Nothing enters a Practice Record until the Master has ratified it line by line (§4.7(g)). No one may write down what the Master meant, tidy a contradiction, or fill a gap on the Master's behalf. A Record that says "asked; not answered" is worth more than a Record that reads smoothly and contains one sentence its Master never said.

The order of work

Act	Instrument	What happens
Before	Form 1	Notice and release signed by every person who will appear in a capture. Nothing is recorded until this is done. Not a formality — §13.7(c) requires the boundary to be stated in writing before capture, not after.
I — Map	Form 2	The Master lists every Practice to be transmitted, with the Successor and any Sponsor. Not a list of names: each Practice carries an observable outcome, materials, a risk rating and a session estimate (§4.1(b)). Signed by all parties. Twenty Practices is the ceiling.
II — Transmit	Form 3	Teaching in Sessions, each logged. The Successor writes a Practice Sheet for each Practice in their own words, reviewed by the Master (§4.2(c)).
III — Elicit	Card A	The Successor asks; the Master answers. Runs alongside the teaching, not after it. Every question and every answer is recorded, including the ones declined (§4.7(f)).
IV — Record	Form 4	One Practice Record per Practice, every field of Annex C completed. No field is optional.
V — Ratify	Form 5	The Master reads each Record back and ratifies it line by line, then attests the Proof Session. Only now does anything become a record.

Six to ten weeks for a first Succession, spread across the Master's ordinary working weeks rather than booked as a block. Elicitation is explicitly not a sitting for interview (§4.7(e)).

Capture tier: choose before starting

Tier	What it requires	When to choose it
Tier 1	Recorded by the parties using an Instrument that hashes each segment at capture and chains it. No accredited Witness attends. The default.	Succession Zero. There is no accreditation scheme yet, and pretending otherwise would be the first false claim on the register.

Tier	What it requires	When to choose it
Tier 2	Tier 1, plus two or three Peer Reviewers who independently attest the named Practice was performed. They attest performance, never quality.	Once two or three practitioners in the trade are willing. Worth reaching for on the strongest Practice.
Tier 3	An accredited Witness attends.	Not available yet. Do not describe any tier as equivalent to another (§4.8(a)).

What goes wrong, and what to do

Elicitation fails in a small number of predictable ways. Each of these has been the reason an expert-knowledge project produced a document nobody could work from.

1. “You just know.”

The commonest dead end, and it is true — they do just know, and cannot reach the knowing directly. Do not push on the abstraction and do not accept the answer. Go sideways into instances: *when did you last get it wrong? What did you see that time that you didn't see this time? Tell me about the worst one.* Specific episodes recover what general questions cannot. A master who cannot describe how they judge moisture will describe the day a batch went off on them in complete detail.

2. The Master performs instead of explaining.

They demonstrate beautifully and narrate nothing, because the doing is not verbal for them. The fix is not to ask harder. The Successor narrates what they *think* they just watched, out loud, and is corrected. Being wrong out loud is the engine of the whole method — a wrong account is something the Master can push against, and pushing back produces the sentence that was never going to arrive from a question.

3. The account is tidier than the work.

Experts give the manual version: the clean sequence, the way it should go. The tell is an account with no branches in it. Ask for the case where the clean version fails — *when does that not work? What do you do on an older building? What if it comes in soft?* The conditionals are the Judgment field, and they are what separates a Record from a recipe.

4. The Master contradicts themselves between sessions.

This is not an error and must not be smoothed. Two different answers to the same question almost always means an unarticulated conditional: each answer is true in a case the Master has not named. Put both back to them and ask which case each belongs to. Some of the best content in any Record is recovered this way. **Never resolve a contradiction by choosing.**

5. It starts to feel like an examination.

Most masters have never been asked to explain what they do, and being questioned closely reads as being tested. Watch for shorter answers and more hedging. Stop, go back to the work, and pick it up in short bouts during real jobs. The Standard permits elicitation over any period and in any number of sittings precisely so this pressure never builds.

6. The Successor asks leading questions.

“So you wait until it goes matte?” gets agreement, not information. Ask what, not whether: *what are you waiting for?* A leading question that produces a yes has contaminated the Record and the contamination is invisible afterwards.

7. The best material arrives at the wrong moment.

In the truck, at lunch, walking back to the van. Elicitation is not confined to recorded sessions and the notebook is never put away. What is captured informally is put back to the Master formally and recorded as an answer, with the question that prompted it.

8. The Successor believes they understood.

Fluency is not competence, and a Successor who has watched carefully will feel they have it. The corrective is immediate and physical: try the Practice, fail, and treat the failure as the question. Divergence between the

Successor's attempt and the Master's **must** be put to the Master (§4.7(d)). Failure in transmission is the primary source of tacit content and it arises without being manufactured — do not manufacture it.

9. Recording changes the first sessions.

It does, for about two sessions, and then it stops mattering. Record from the beginning anyway and discard nothing. The early awkward sessions are part of the record of how this was done.

10. Going deep before the map is complete.

The temptation is to follow the first fascinating Practice all the way down. Finish the Map first — all of it, until the Master agrees it is finished — because a Map made after depth has begun is shaped by what was interesting rather than by what the Master knows.

Why “asked; not answered” matters

Every field of Annex C is required, and a field that cannot be completed is answered “asked; not answered” with the date — never left blank. A blank is ambiguous between *nobody asked* and *there is nothing there*. A later reader is entitled to know which. Recording that the Master declined to answer is itself a finding about the practice, and occasionally the most interesting one in the Record.

FORM 1 · BEFORE ANYTHING IS RECORDED

Notice and release

Implements §13.5, §13.6 and §13.7(c). Signed by every person who will appear in a capture, before capture begins.

This document is a draft for review by counsel before use. It states a boundary rather than obtaining a blanket permission, which is the point: a person who does not want the permanent part is turned away at the start rather than becoming a dispute later.

What will be recorded

Video, audio, photographs and written notes of the practice being taught and performed, made during ordinary work. The questions put and the answers given. The resulting written Practice Records.

What will be published

The Lineage Number, the names of the Master and Successor, the trade and the Practices, the date and fact of the record, the Practice Records themselves, and a deposit hash — a short code derived from the record's exact contents by which any later alteration can be detected. Recorded media is published only where separately agreed in writing.

What can be withdrawn later, and what cannot

A person may at any time withdraw their name, require deletion of media in which they appear, and require that they cease to be identified in a Practice Record.

The following survive that withdrawal and cannot be recalled: the Lineage Number; the fact and date that a record exists; the deposit hash; and the trade method itself. The first three are not personal data. The last belongs to the trade rather than to any individual (§9.6(a)). **This is the part to be sure about before signing.**

What will never be collected

No fingerprint, face scan, voiceprint, retina or iris scan, hand or face geometry, or any other biometric identifier. Nothing of that kind is created, captured, stored, converted into a template, disclosed, sold, leased, traded or profited from, at any time, by anyone (§13.5). No health information, government identifier or financial account detail is recorded.

Payment and freedom of attestation

No payment, refund, renewal or discount depends on what any person attests. The Master's attestation is the Master's own and nobody may tell them what to attest (§3.3).

What this is not

A Lineage Number is not an occupational license, a competence credential, or a warranty of workmanship. Nothing here certifies that any person is skilled.

Name <i>printed</i>	
Role <i>Master / Successor / Sponsor / other person present</i>	
Trade and Practices	

Capture tier <i>Tier 1 instrumented is the default</i>	
Media publication <i>agreed separately in writing? Y / N</i>	
Signature	
Date signed <i>must precede the first capture</i>	

Stricter local law governs where it applies. Where a required step cannot be performed in compliance, it is not performed.

FORM 2 · ACT I

Practice Map

§4.1. Prepared before teaching begins, by the Master with the Successor and any Sponsor. Signed by all. Amendable, dated and re-signed; the final Map is the one deposited.

A list of Practice names is not a Map. Each Practice carries all five fields below. No more than twenty Practices — a larger body of practice is divided into more than one Transmission.

#	Practice name	Observable outcome, one sentence	Materials, tools, equipment	Risk	Sessions
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					

Risk rating. Critical — no one else in the organization or lineage can perform it. Important. Routine. The Critical ones are why the Transmission is happening; map them first and teach them first.

The grant made by signing (§15.8). Each of the Master, the Successor and any Sponsor grants the Registrar a perpetual, irrevocable, worldwide, non-exclusive, royalty-free and sublicensable license to reproduce, adapt, publish and distribute the Practice Record and every component of it, including the elicitation transcript, and to license it to the public under Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 (§15.7).

The grant transfers no know-how (§§3.6, 9.5). It takes effect on publication, so sealing or an embargo under §9.6(d) does not defeat it. Withdrawing a name under §5.5, or erasure under §13.7, removes identification and does not remove the method, which §9.6(a) holds to belong to the trade.

Anyone unwilling to make this grant should stop here, before the first Session. That is the point of putting it on the Map rather than on the Record.

Master <i>name, signature, date — signature makes the \$15.8 grant</i>	
Successor <i>name, signature, date — signature makes the \$15.8 grant</i>	
Sponsor <i>if any — name, signature, date — signature makes the \$15.8 grant</i>	
Map version <i>amendments dated and re-signed</i>	

FORM 3 • ACT II

Session log

Annex D. Every Session logged. Deposited in full.

Date	Place	Duration	Practices covered	Present	Witness mode	Recorded
						Y / N
						Y / N
						Y / N
						Y / N
						Y / N
						Y / N
						Y / N
						Y / N
						Y / N
						Y / N
						Y / N
						Y / N
						Y / N
						Y / N
						Y / N

Witness mode: in person / live remote / recorded review / none (Tier 1). Kept by the Witness for Sessions attested, and by the Master otherwise.

CARD A • ACT III

Elicitation questions

Annex K. The Successor asks; the Master answers. Record the protocol version used on each Practice Record.

The questions are scripted rather than left to the room because experts cannot see their own assumptions — including the expert asking. Work through the groups in order for each Practice, but ask them during the work rather than across a table.

On the work itself

- Show me. What are you doing now, and why now?
- What did you just decide?
- What did you look at before you decided?
- What would you have done if it had looked different?

On the senses

- How do you know it is right?
- What are you listening for?
- What does it feel like just before it goes wrong?
- Is there a smell, a sound, a change of color? Describe it as you would to someone who cannot see it.

This group is the first content to die and the reason the Record exists. Spend the most time here.

On stopping and starting

- How do you know when to stop? How do you know it is finished?
- What do you check last?
- What would make you refuse to start at all?

On failure

- What goes wrong most often?
- What does it look like the moment before anyone else would notice?
- What do you do then? When do you take it out rather than fix it?
- What is the worst mistake you have made at this, and what did it teach you?

On the novice

- What does a beginner always get wrong here? What did you get wrong?
- What takes longest to learn, and what can be learned in a day?
- What would you not let an apprentice do unsupervised, and for how long?

On the tools

- Which of these did you make or change?
- Show me how you prepare it. How do you know it is prepared right?
- What do you do when it is not?

In most trades tool preparation is half the skill and it is almost never written down.

On the method's lineage

- Who taught you this? What did they tell you that you now think was wrong?
- What have you changed, and why?
- What do you do differently from others in the trade, and what do they say about it?

On the divergence — §4.7(d)

- Your successor did this and you stopped them. What did you see?
- What were they about to do?
- How would you describe the difference to someone watching a recording?

On what the corpus already knows — §4.7(c)

- Other practitioners recorded on this Practice mention [X]. You have not. Do you not do it, or did it not occur to you to say? If you do not do it, why not?

For Succession Zero the corpus is empty, so this group has nothing to draw on yet. Record that it was asked and had no comparison available — the first record is the one that makes the group work for everyone after.

On the gaps

- Read this Record back. What is missing that you would need if you had never done this?
- What have I not asked?

FORM 4 · ACT IV

Practice Record

Annex C. One per Practice. Every field required. A field that cannot be completed is answered “asked; not answered” with the date, never left blank.

Identifier and version <i>Record ID; version; Domain; the Practice name as used in the trade, and any other names it goes by</i>	
What the Practice is <i>one paragraph a practitioner in another trade could follow: what is being done, and to what</i>	
Preconditions <i>the state the work, material and site must be in before beginning, and how each is verified; what makes a job unsuitable to start</i>	
Materials <i>specified, not named: mixes and proportions, grading, source or equivalent, moisture, temperature, age; substitutions that work, substitutions that do not, and how the difference shows</i>	
Tools <i>every tool used; for tools the practitioner makes, dresses, grinds or modifies — how, to what geometry, how often, and how a correctly prepared tool is recognized</i>	
Sequence <i>the operations in order, each with what it is for; where order matters and why, and where it does not</i>	
Sensory cues <i>what it looks, sounds, smells and feels like when it is going right, in the Master's own words</i>	

Failure modes <i>what going wrong looks like at the earliest point it can be seen or felt; what causes it; what to do; and when the work must be undone rather than corrected</i>	
Judgment and conditionals <i>the branching — if it comes in soft, then; in cold, then; on an older building, then</i>	
Acceptance <i>how the practitioner knows the Practice is finished and right, and what they check last</i>	
Why <i>the reasoning; without it the Record is a recipe rather than an understanding</i>	

Provenance of the method <i>what the Master was taught and from whom; what the Master changed and why; what the Master believes their own teacher had wrong</i>	
Time and difficulty <i>how long it takes a competent hand; where a novice loses time; roughly how long it took the Master to become reliable at it</i>	
Questions asked <i>the elicitation transcript: every question put and every answer given, including questions declined or unanswered — attach in full</i>	
Ratification <i>the Master's line-by-line ratification of this Record, dated</i>	
Reproduction <i>test attempts: date, tester's Lineage Number, outcome, and where the tester got stuck</i>	

Amendments

*gap reports received and the
amendments made, with dates*

FORM 5 • ACT V

Ratification and attestation

§3.11, §4.7(g), Annex B.1 and B.5. Nothing is a record until this is signed.

Line-by-line ratification

The Master reads each Practice Record back in full and ratifies it. Not a signature on a cover page — the Master confirms each field says what they said. Corrections are made before ratification, not after, and a corrected field records that it was corrected.

Practice Record ID	Ratified	Date	Fields corrected before ratification
	Y / N		
	Y / N		
	Y / N		
	Y / N		
	Y / N		
	Y / N		
	Y / N		
	Y / N		

Master's attestation

"I taught [Successor] the practices listed in this Record. On [date] I watched [Successor] perform each practice marked Attested, and I attest that each was performed to my standard. My standard is my own. No one paid me for this attestation, and no one told me what to attest."

Master

name, signature, date

Successor's acknowledgment

"I received these practices from [Master]. I acknowledge this Record and consent to publication of the fields marked public."

Successor

name, signature, date

The Registrar countersigns conformity of form only, and attests nothing else (Annex B.6). If the Master dies or becomes incapacitated before ratifying, §5.7 applies: ratified Records stand, unratified practices may publish marked “unratified — peer attested”, and no person may supply a Master’s correctness attestation in the Master’s place.

Before the first session

	Check
1	Notice and release signed and dated by every person who will appear in a capture — before any camera runs.
2	Capture tier chosen and stated. Tier 1 for Succession Zero; no tier described as equivalent to another.
3	Recording equipment tested on a full session length, not a clip. Audio is what fails, and audio is what carries the sensory cues.
4	Hashing at source working, and the chain verified on a test segment (Annex L). A hash applied afterwards proves nothing about when.
5	Practice Map complete, signed, and agreed by the Master to be finished. Critical Practices identified and scheduled first.
6	The Successor briefed that being wrong out loud is the method, not a failure of preparation.
7	Storage arranged in at least two separate places, checked against digests. One copy is not a deposit.
8	Reproduction Test not commissioned, and not commissionable until the liability program is bound (§15.3(e)–(h)).
9	Instrument contributor copyright assignments executed, if any software was written for this (§18.2).
10	A decision made, in advance, about what happens to the material if the Master withdraws — and the Master told what that decision is.

Root & Branch Register Inc. · Field kit to Transmission Standard v0.6 · September 2026. The forms implement the Standard; where this kit and the Standard differ, the Standard governs.