

ROOT & BRANCH

Transmission Standard

Version 0.9 — Draft for review

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Status. Working draft. Not in force. Except for the single demonstration Transmission permitted by §12.2, no Transmission Record may be issued under a draft version. Comments to standard@rootandbranchregister.org.

Thesis. *A practice survives only while someone can still perform it. Records outlast performers. The Register records, for each practice it covers, who received it, from whom, and who saw.*

Changes in this version. Version 0.9 fixes how a trade is named. Until now a Domain was named by matching prose against the list in Annex F, and a Practice Record carried that prose. Two lists had grown up without ever being reconciled: Annex F named twenty-four Domains, the published assessment measured forty-eight trades, and seven Annex F Domains reached no assessed trade at all. In harvested material the same defect is already measurable — three thousand one hundred and thirty transmission rows carry one thousand nine hundred and forty-six distinct trade strings, so that Quilting and Quilt Making count as two trades and ninety-two strings name basketry. A register that cannot say how many trades it holds cannot assess their condition. §20 establishes the Trade Register, an authority file of terms with permanent identifiers, variant labels that resolve, an explicit federal occupation-code crosswalk, and a published route by which a trade not yet listed is proposed and adjudicated. §6.8 is replaced so that a Domain is named by term identifier rather than by prose. Annex F is replaced by the Trade Register itself, which carries every Domain it named. No other clause changes meaning.

Changes in version 0.8. Version 0.8 repairs a deadlock. §12.2 set version 1.0 to publish on the issue of the tenth Transmission Record, while the same section permitted only one Record to issue under a draft — so the tenth-Record trigger could never fire, and no trial of any size could be conducted before 1.0 bound everyone to an untested document. §12.2 is replaced: 1.0 now publishes on the completion of a conformance trial or on January 1, 2027, whichever is first. §12.7 defines that trial — not more than twelve Transmissions, conducted in full conformance, producing complete Practice Records, issuing as ordinary Records under 1.0 when it takes effect, with the findings published before 1.0 goes out for comment. Participation is free and carries no later charge. No other clause changes meaning.

Contents

1. Purpose, thesis and scope

1.1 Purpose. This Standard defines how a transmission of practice from one named person to another is witnessed, recorded, deposited and entered on the Register, and how rank on the Register is derived from those records.

1.2 Thesis. A practice survives only while someone can still perform it. Records outlast performers. The Register exists to record, for each practice it covers, who received it, from whom, and who saw.

1.3 What the Register is. A public, permanent record of transmissions and lineages, maintained by the Registrar under this Standard.

1.4 What the Register is not. The Register does not assess skill, does not license anyone to practice, does not certify competence and does not warrant workmanship. A Transmission Record states that a transmission occurred and who attested it. Nothing more may be claimed for it.

1.5 Scope. This Standard applies to Transmission Records, Lineage Enrollments, Entries and Lineage Numbers, Rank, Witnesses, Deposits, use of the Mark, and the conduct of the Registrar and any licensed operator, in every Domain listed in Annex F. It does not apply to health and care trades (§14.1).

1.6 Conformance language. MUST, MUST NOT, SHOULD, SHOULD NOT and MAY are used as defined in RFC 2119 and clarified by RFC 8174.

1.7 Openness. The text of this Standard is published under Creative Commons Attribution-NoDerivatives 4.0 International (CC BY-ND 4.0): it may be reproduced and distributed freely, whole and unmodified, with attribution. Derivative standards are not licensed, because there is one Register (§3.7). Implementing this Standard — conducting Transmissions under license, or building software that reads, verifies or anchors Records and Deposits — is royalty-free and is not restricted by that license. Nothing in this document licenses the Mark (§11).

1.8 What a Record must contain. A Record that states only who transmitted what, and when, preserves the fact of a practice and not the practice. This Standard therefore requires that every Practice transmitted be documented to the depth at which a competent practitioner of the same trade, who never met the Master, can attempt the Practice from the documentation alone (§15). A Record that does not meet that depth does not conform, however well captured or witnessed.

1.9 Patents. The Registrar holds no patent and will seek none in respect of the methods this Standard describes, and grants every implementer a perpetual, irrevocable, royalty-free license under any patent it may nonetheless come to hold that would be infringed by implementing this Standard. A standard that can be implemented only at the sufferance of its author is not an open standard (§1.7).

2. Definitions

Capitalized terms have the meanings below. Singular includes plural.

Term	Meaning
Attestation	A signed statement in the fixed wording of Annex B.
Deposit	The package of materials described in §9, identified by a Deposit Hash. An Open Deposit is disclosed under §9.2; a Sealed Deposit under §9.3.
Deposit Hash	The SHA-256 digest of the canonical Deposit manifest (Annex E).

Term	Meaning
Domain	A trade or field of practice listed in Annex F.
Entry	A person's presence on the Register within one Domain, identified by a Lineage Number.
Good Standing	The status of an Entry under §6.6.
Historical Entry	An Entry for a person who is deceased or otherwise unable to attest, created under §5.6.
Lineage	The set of Entries connected by teacher–student links (§6.3).
Lineage Enrollment (Enrollment)	The process in §6.7 by which a practitioner documents an existing lineage.
Lineage Number	The identifier of an Entry (§6.1).
Mark	The words ROOT & BRANCH and the form “Root & Branch · Lineage No. ____”, used under §11.
Master	The person who teaches in a Transmission. Also “teacher”.
Practice	A specific, nameable thing a person does with materials, tools or a process, with an observable outcome — cutting a lime-mortar joint; setting up a Bridgeport for a second-operation bore; hand-lettering a gilt sign.
Practice Map	The enumerated list of Practices for a Transmission (§4.1, Annex C).
Practice Sheet	The written description of one Practice made during a Transmission (§4.2(c)).
Proof Session	The Session at which the Successor performs Practices for the Master's attestation (§4.3).
Rank	Received, Transmitting or Root (§7).
Record / Transmission Record	The document defined in §5 and Annex A.
Register	The public register maintained by the Registrar.
Registrar	Root & Branch Register, Inc., or the Standards Entity once constituted (§12.4).
Session	A scheduled teaching meeting between Master and Successor (§4.2).
Sponsor	A person or organization that commissions or pays for a Transmission, typically an employer.
Standards Council	The body described in §12.4.
Successor	The person who receives in a Transmission. Also “student”.
Transmission	The teaching of one or more Practices by a Master to a Successor, carried out and recorded under §4.
Witness	A person accredited under §8 who attests that Sessions and the Proof Session occurred.

Term	Meaning
Witness Number	The identifier W-#### of an accredited Witness (§8.5).

3. Principles

3.1 Record, not judgment. The Registrar and Witnesses record what occurred. They do not evaluate whether a Practice was performed well. The only judgment on the Register is the Master's, and it is recorded as the Master's.

3.2 Two attestations, two questions. The Master answers one question: did the Successor perform this Practice to my standard? The Witness answers another: did this take place as recorded, and was the Master's attestation given freely? Neither answers the other's question.

3.3 Independence of the Witness. A Witness has no stake in the outcome and is paid only for time (§8.3). No payment, refund, renewal or discount under any program run under this Standard may depend on what a Master or Witness attests.

3.4 Rank from records only. Rank is computed from Records and Enrollments (§7). It cannot be purchased, examined for, or awarded by discretion.

3.5 Public by consent; hash always public. Names appear on the Register with consent and may be withdrawn (§13.2). The Lineage Number, the existence of a Record and its Deposit Hash are always public.

3.6 Know-how belongs to those who hold it. Nothing in this Standard transfers any right in a Practice to the Registrar. The Registrar holds records and licenses to them (§9.5).

3.7 Open Standard, one Register. The Standard may be implemented by anyone (§1.7). There is one Register, so that a Lineage Number means the same thing everywhere.

3.8 Permanence. Entries and Records are never deleted. They are corrected, annotated or superseded (§5.4, §10.3).

3.9 Compliance without purchase. Every requirement this Standard places on an Entry in order to maintain standing MUST be satisfiable by at least one conforming route that is available at no charge and that does not require the Registrar's participation. The Registrar MUST NOT withdraw or restrict the last such route without first publishing a replacement that meets this section.

3.10 Depth over volume. Where depth and volume conflict, this Standard prefers depth. One Practice documented so that a stranger in the trade can follow it is worth more to the Register than twenty documented by name.

3.11 The instrument asks; the person asserts. An Instrument — software, a model, a script or a sensor — MAY ask, prompt, transcribe, segment, structure, compare and flag. It MUST NOT assert. No content enters a Record or a Practice Record unless a named person has ratified it as their own statement. Unratified content is excluded rather than softened, and every Record states on its face which Instrument elicited it and who asserted it.

3.12 Redundancy over custody. The Register survives by being copied, not by being kept. Its contents are published in a form any party can mirror and read without the Registrar's software, and the Registrar is one custodian among several (§17).

4. The Transmission: five acts

4.0 Overview. Map, Transmit, Prove, Deposit, Record. A Transmission **MUST** include all five acts. The acts may span any period; a Transmission is not time-limited.

4.1 Map. The Map identifies the Practices to be transmitted and opens a Practice Record for each, under §15 and Annex C. A list of Practice names is not a Map.

- (a) Before teaching begins, the Master, with the Successor and any Sponsor, **MUST** prepare a Practice Map listing each Practice to be transmitted (Annex C).
- (b) Each Practice on the Map **MUST** have: a name; a one-sentence description of its observable outcome; the materials, tools or equipment involved; a risk rating — Critical (no one else in the organization or lineage can perform it), Important, or Routine; and an estimate of Sessions.
- (c) A Map **SHOULD** contain no more than twenty Practices. A larger body of practice **SHOULD** be divided into more than one Transmission.
- (d) The Map **MUST** be signed by the Master and the Successor and, where there is a Sponsor, by the Sponsor.
- (e) The Map **MAY** be amended during the Transmission; each amendment is dated and signed by the same parties. The final Map is the one deposited.

4.2 Transmit.

- (a) Teaching takes place in Sessions. Each Session **MUST** be logged (Annex D): date, place, duration, Practices covered, persons present, and the Witness's presence mode.
- (b) A Witness **MUST** be present, in one of the modes of §8.4, for at least one Session per Practice, in addition to the Proof Session.
- (c) For each Practice, a Practice Sheet **MUST** be written during the Transmission by the Successor, in the Successor's own words, and reviewed by the Master. The Practice Sheet describes how the Practice is done, in whatever form suits the trade — text, drawings, photographs, measurements, timestamps into recordings. It is not evaluated for quality; it is deposited as written.
- (d) Sessions **SHOULD** be recorded in audio and video where everyone present consents. Recordings form part of the Deposit.

4.3 Prove.

- (a) When the Master judges the Successor ready, a Proof Session is held. The Successor performs each Practice on the Map, or as many as the Master judges ready, in the presence of the Master and a Witness.
- (b) For each Practice performed, the Master **MUST** state one of: Attested — “performed to my standard”; or Not attested. The Master's standard is the Master's own. This Standard sets no external standard of performance, and the Witness **MUST NOT** apply one.

- (c) A Practice marked Not attested MAY be re-proven at a later Proof Session, and the Record is then supplemented under §5.3.
- (d) The Witness MUST attest that the Proof Session took place as logged and that the Master's attestations were given freely, without direction from any Sponsor or from the Registrar.
- (e) The Proof Session MUST be witnessed In Person or by Live Remote presence (§8.4). Recorded Review is not sufficient for the Proof Session.

4.4 Deposit.

- (a) The Deposit (§9) MUST be assembled within thirty days of the Proof Session and MUST contain: the final Practice Map; every Practice Sheet; the Session log; the recordings, where made; the Attestations; and the Deposit manifest.
- (b) The Deposit Hash MUST be computed under Annex E and published on the Register with the Record.
- (c) The parties MUST elect Open or Sealed status, and any unseal term, before the Record is issued.

4.5 Record.

- (a) On receipt of the Deposit and all Attestations, the Registrar issues the Transmission Record (§5), assigns a Lineage Number to any party who has none in the Domain, and enters the Record on the Register.
- (b) The Registrar's countersignature attests only that the Record conforms to this Standard in form. It is not an attestation of anything that occurred.

4.6 Open Filing.

- (a) An Open Filing is a conforming route by which a Transmission is recorded without the Registrar's participation and at no charge.
- (b) An Open Filing MUST include the acts of Map (§4.1), Transmit (§4.2) and Prove (§4.3), and MUST be attested by the Master and the Successor in the wording of Annex B.7.
- (c) In place of an accredited Witness, an Open Filing MUST be attested by two Filing Witnesses under §8.7.
- (d) No recording is required and no Deposit is held. The Registrar holds the attestations and the Practice list and computes the Deposit Hash over those documents alone; the Record states "no deposit".
- (e) An Entry or Record arising from an Open Filing is marked "openly filed" on the Register. It MUST NOT be described as witnessed under §§4.2 to 4.4, or represented as equivalent to a Record issued with an accredited Witness.
- (f) An Open Filing counts for Received rank (§7.1), for Transmitting rank (§7.2), for the generation count for Root rank (§7.3) and for Transmission Currency (§6.9).
- (g) The Registrar MAY refuse an Open Filing only for incompleteness, for failure of the independence test in §8.7, or on a finding under §10. A refusal is given in writing with reasons and is reviewable under §10.2.

4.7 Elicitation.

- (a) Elicitation is the act of drawing out what the Master knows, to the depth §15 requires. It is performed by the Successor, assisted by an Instrument, under the protocol in Annex K.

- (b) The Successor asks and the Master answers. A competent novice in the trade asks the questions a practitioner has stopped noticing; a person who does not know the trade cannot ask them at all.
- (c) The Instrument **MUST** compare the Master's account against the Practice Records already on the Register for the same Practice, and put every material difference to the Master as a question.
- (d) Where the Successor's attempt at a Practice diverges from the Master's, the divergence **MUST** be put to the Master as a question. Failure in transmission is the primary source of tacit content, and it arises without being manufactured.
- (e) Elicitation **MAY** be conducted over any period and in any number of sittings, including during ordinary work. It is not a sitting for interview.
- (f) The questions asked **MUST** be recorded with the answers, including questions the Master declined or could not answer. The absence of an answer is recorded, not omitted; a later reader is entitled to know what was asked.
- (g) Nothing elicited enters a Practice Record until the Master has ratified it, line by line (§3.11).

4.8 Capture.

- (a) Capture is the recording of Sessions, Proof and Elicitation. Every Record states the tier in which it was captured, and no tier is described as equivalent to another.
- (b) **Tier 1 — Instrumented.** Recorded by the parties using an Instrument that hashes each segment at the moment of capture and chains it (Annex L). No accredited Witness attends. This is the default tier.
- (c) **Tier 2 — Peer-reviewed.** Tier 1, and in addition two or three Peer Reviewers under §8.8 who independently attest that the named Practice was performed. Peer Reviewers attest performance and never quality.
- (d) **Tier 3 — Witnessed.** An accredited Witness attends under §8. Available to any party and required of none.
- (e) Identity of the Master and the Successor is verified at Enrollment. Liveness is verified at the start of each captured segment.
- (f) The chain of hashes evidences sequence and elapsed time, and is anchored under §6.4. A chain cannot be assembled after the fact. In Tiers 1 and 2 this, rather than attendance, is what evidences that Sessions occurred as recorded.
- (g) Tiers 1 and 2 require no staged Session and no staged Proof Session. Capture during ordinary work is preferred, being better evidence than a demonstration performed for a camera.
- (h) Capture is media. It is preserved on the terms of §17.3 and is not the Record.

4.9 Provenance of a Record. Every Record states the Instrument and version that elicited it, the tier of Capture, the persons who asserted its content, and whether a Reproduction Test has been passed. A Record that does not carry its provenance does not conform.

5. The Transmission Record

5.1 Content. A Record **MUST** contain the fields in Annex A. Fields marked public in Annex A appear on the Register subject to §13. Fields marked private are held by the Registrar and disclosed only as §9 and §13 allow.

5.2 Attestation wording. Attestations MUST use the fixed wording of Annex B. Additions are permitted only in the separate Remarks field and are never part of an Attestation.

5.3 Supplements. A Record MAY be supplemented when further Practices are attested at a later Proof Session. A supplement is a new Record that references the original; both remain on the Register.

5.4 Correction. A clerical error is corrected by an erratum published with the Record; the original text remains visible. A Record is never deleted. Where an Attestation is found false under §10.3, the Record is annotated, not removed.

5.5 Withdrawal of a name. A party may withdraw consent to publication of their name (§13.2). The name is replaced by “withheld” on the public Register; the Record, its Lineage Numbers and its Deposit Hash remain.

5.6 Historical and peer-attested Entries. Where a practitioner’s teacher is deceased or cannot attest, an Enrollment MAY be supported by Attestations from two persons, each of whom knew the teaching relationship at first hand, in the wording of Annex B.4. Such an Entry is marked “peer-attested”. A Historical Entry created for the teacher carries the ranks its documented records support and is marked “historical”. A peer-attested link counts toward the Successor’s Received rank and toward the generation count for Root rank (§7.3), and confers no rank on any living person.

5.7 Transmission interrupted by death or incapacity.

- (a) Where a Master dies or becomes unable to continue before a Transmission is complete, the Transmission is recorded as incomplete, with the date and the reason. Incompleteness is a fact about the Transmission and is displayed plainly, not softened.
- (b) Practice Records the Master ratified before the interruption stand, publish and count in full.
- (c) For a Practice performed but not ratified, two Peer Reviewers under §8.8 MAY attest that it was performed, and the Practice Record publishes marked “unratified — peer attested”. It is never published as ratified, and it never carries a correctness attestation.
- (d) No person may supply a Master’s correctness attestation in the Master’s place — not the Successor, not the Sponsor, not the Registrar, not an Instrument. The attestation is the Master’s or it does not exist.
- (e) The Successor’s Received rank counts the Practices attested. An interrupted Transmission is not a failed one; it is the case this Register exists for, and a partial record of a practice now lost is the most valuable thing it can hold.

6. The Register, Entries and Lineage Numbers

6.1 Lineage Number. Each Entry is identified by a Lineage Number of the form RB-000001, assigned sequentially by the Registrar when the Entry is created and never reassigned. The display form omits the prefix and leading zeros: “Lineage No. 412”. A person holds one Entry per Domain; a person practicing in two Domains holds two Lineage Numbers.

6.2 Entry content.

- (a) Public: Lineage Number; name, or “withheld”; Domain; Rank; teacher links — the Lineage Number of each teacher; student links; Records, by identifier, date, route (§4.6(e)), Deposit Hash and seal status; standing, shown as in standing, dormant (§6.9(c)) or closed (§6.9(e)); date of Entry; place, as city and state or country, at the holder’s option.

- (b) Private: contact details; year of birth, held to distinguish persons of the same name; documents supporting an Enrollment.

6.3 Links. An Entry is linked to a teacher's Entry by a Record in which the teacher is Master, or by an Enrollment Attestation. A Lineage is the set of Entries reachable by following teacher links in either direction. There is no limit on the number of teachers or students an Entry may have.

6.4 Permanence and anchoring. The Register is append-only. Each day the Registrar MUST publish a digest of the Register's state — a Merkle root over all Entries and Records — in at least one public location operated independently of the Registrar, so that any Entry or Record can be shown to have existed on a given date. The Registrar MAY use a third-party anchoring service; the Register MUST NOT depend on any one such service to function.

6.5 Access. Every Entry and Record has a stable public address, of the form `rootandbranchregister.org/lineage/[number]` and `rootandbranchregister.org/record/[Record ID]`. Those addresses are permanent and are not changed, reassigned or redirected away once published (§3.8). The Register is searchable by name (where public), Lineage Number, Domain and place. Bulk export of public fields is available on request. Correspondence about the Register is received at `register@rootandbranchregister.org`; correspondence about this Standard at `standard@rootandbranchregister.org` (§12.3).

6.6 Good Standing. An Entry is in Good Standing when (a) any standing fee due under the Register Terms is paid; (b) no integrity finding under §10 is open against it; and (c) the Transmission Currency requirement of §6.9 is met. Lapse of standing does not remove or alter an Entry; the Register shows "not in standing" or "dormant" as the case requires, and the Mark may not be used (§11.1) until standing is restored.

6.7 Lineage Enrollment.

- (a) A practitioner with an existing, undocumented lineage MAY apply for an Entry by Enrollment, naming the Domain; naming each teacher and the period of instruction; supplying each teacher's Attestation in the wording of Annex B.3, or peer Attestations under §5.6; and stating years in practice and, at the applicant's option, representative work.
- (b) The Registrar checks form and identity only. There is no evaluation of skill or of the work.
- (c) An Enrollment creates an Entry at Received rank for the applicant, and a living or Historical Entry for each teacher as the facts support.

6.8 Domains. Entries are made within the Domains listed in the Trade Register (§20). A Domain is a trade or field, not a technique; the Practice is the unit within it. An Entry, a Transmission Record and a Practice Record each name their Domain by its term identifier. No Record names a Domain in free text, and a Record that does so does not conform to this Standard. A trade that the Trade Register does not yet list is proposed under §20.5; it is not written into the Domain field in the meantime.

6.9 Transmission Currency.

- (a) An Entry meets the Transmission Currency requirement when its holder has taken part in a Transmission, as Master or as Successor, within the preceding five years, evidenced by a Record, by a supplement under §5.3, or by an Open Filing under §4.6.
- (b) Currency is computed by the Registrar from the Register. It is never satisfied by payment, examination, application or discretion.

- (c) An Entry that does not meet the requirement is shown as “dormant”. A dormant Entry retains its Lineage Number, its Records, its links and its computed Rank, and loses only the right to use the Mark under §11.1.
- (d) Currency is restored on the entry of a qualifying Record or Open Filing, with effect from the date of the transmission recorded.
- (e) An Entry whose holder is deceased is neither dormant nor in standing; it is shown as closed. Rank derived through a closed Entry under §7 is unaffected.
- (f) The Registrar **MUST NOT** charge any fee for an Open Filing made to satisfy this section (§3.9).
- (g) Transitional. An Entry existing on the effective date of this section is treated as current on that date, and the five-year period runs from it.

7. Rank

7.1 Received. An Entry holds Received rank when it has at least one teacher link supported either by a Record in which the holder is Successor with at least one Practice attested, or by an Enrollment Attestation.

7.2 Transmitting. An Entry holds Transmitting rank when its holder is Master on at least one issued Record with at least one Practice attested.

7.3 Root. An Entry holds Root rank when at least one chain of three successive student links descends from it, each link supported by a Tier 2 or Tier 3 Record. Historical and peer-attested links count. Links supported only by a Tier 1 Record or an Open Filing count toward Received rank (§7.1) and toward Transmission Currency (§6.9), and do not count toward Root — without that limit a small group could manufacture a Root lineage in a handful of filings, and rank is the Register’s credential.

7.4 Rules. Rank is computed by the Registrar from the Register and recomputed whenever a Record or Enrollment is added, supplemented or annotated. Rank is never awarded by application, examination, payment or discretion, and is reduced only when a supporting Attestation is annotated as false under §10.3. Rank is shown on the Entry and **MAY** be shown with the Mark.

7.5 Meaning. Rank describes the documented shape of a lineage. It is not a grade of skill, seniority or quality, and **MUST NOT** be described as one.

8. Witnesses

8.1 Who may witness. A Witness **MUST** be an adult, accredited by the Registrar after training on this Standard and the Witness Manual (Annex G), and independent of the Transmission witnessed: not the Master or the Successor, not a relative of either, not an officer or manager of the Sponsor with authority over either, and not a person with any financial interest in the outcome.

8.2 Duties. A Witness **MUST** be present, in an approved mode, for every Session and Proof Session attested; keep a contemporaneous log (Annex D); attest only what the Witness observed; refuse to attest anything that did not occur; report to the Registrar any attempt to direct an Attestation; and keep confidential whatever is seen of a Sponsor’s operations.

8.3 Pay. A Witness is paid for time, by Session or by day, at a rate fixed before the Transmission begins. No part of a Witness's pay MAY depend on whether any Practice is attested, on whether the Record issues, or on any party's satisfaction. The Record states "paid for time" or "unpaid".

8.4 Presence modes.

- (a) In Person — physically present.
- (b) Live Remote — present by continuous, synchronous audio and video for the whole Session, with the ability to direct the camera.
- (c) Recorded Review — review of a complete recording after the fact. Permitted for Sessions only; never for the Proof Session (§4.3(e)).

8.5 Witness Number and Witness Record. Each accredited Witness holds a Witness Number (W-0001, W-0002 ...). A Witness's own training under this Standard is itself recorded as a Transmission, so that every Witness has a Record and a Lineage Number in the Domain "Witnessing".

8.6 Removal. A Witness who attests falsely, accepts outcome-linked pay or fails the independence test of §8.1 is removed from accreditation, and the finding is published under §10. Records the Witness attested are reviewed; those with no other defect stand, annotated.

8.7 Filing Witnesses.

- (a) A Filing Witness is an adult who holds an Entry in Good Standing and satisfies the independence test of §8.1, but who need not be accredited under that section and is not paid.
- (b) Each Filing Witness attests, in the wording of Annex B.7, that the Sessions and the Proof Session took place as recorded and that the Master's attestation was given freely.
- (c) A Filing Witness who attests falsely is subject to §10 and their own Entry may be annotated. §8.6 does not apply, there being no accreditation to remove.
- (d) A person MAY act as Filing Witness on no more than four Open Filings in any twelve-month period.

8.8 Peer Reviewers.

- (a) A Peer Reviewer holds an Entry in Good Standing in the Domain of the Practice reviewed, satisfies the independence test of §8.1, reviews asynchronously and is unpaid.
- (b) A Peer Reviewer attests one thing: that the Practice named was performed in the Capture reviewed. A Peer Reviewer MUST NOT attest, and MUST NOT be asked, whether it was performed well. That question belongs to the Master alone (§3.1, §4.3).
- (c) Reviewers review independently and without sight of each other's attestation. Wording is at Annex B.8.
- (d) A person MAY act as Peer Reviewer on no more than twelve Records in any twelve-month period, and MUST NOT review for a person who has reviewed for them within the same period.

9. Deposits

9.1 Contents and manifest. A Deposit contains the materials listed in §4.4(a). The manifest (Annex E) lists every file with its own SHA-256 digest, size and media type, together with the Record fields. The Deposit Hash is the SHA-256 digest of the canonical manifest.

9.2 Open Deposit. Materials are available to the parties on request and, with the consent of every person appearing in them, to the public through the Register.

9.3 Sealed Deposit. Materials are held by the Registrar and not disclosed; only the manifest metadata and the Deposit Hash are public. A Sealed Deposit is opened only on: (a) the written consent of the depositor — the Sponsor, or the parties where there is none; (b) expiry of the term elected at deposit, measured from the Master's death, the default being twenty-five years and any term from zero to fifty being electable; (c) a court order; or (d) dissolution of the Registrar, whereupon the Deposit passes, still sealed, to the successor archive named in the Register Terms. Every access is logged, and the log is available to the depositor.

9.4 Custody. Deposits are kept in at least two geographically separate locations, in formats the Registrar migrates as needed, and are checked against their digests at least once a year. A Deposit is never destroyed.

9.5 Ownership and licenses. Know-how shown in a Deposit belongs to whoever held it before the Transmission, and nothing in this Standard transfers it. Where a Sponsor commissions the Transmission, the Sponsor owns the recordings and Practice Sheets, and grants the Registrar a perpetual, irrevocable archival license together with the license required by §15.8. Where there is no Sponsor, the Registrar owns the recordings it makes and grants the Master and the Successor a perpetual license for their own use. The Registrar never licenses Deposit materials to a third party for a fee.

9.6 Publication of method; what a Sponsor may seal; embargo.

- (a) Know-how belongs to whoever held it before the Transmission (§9.5). A Sponsor cannot seal what was never its own.
- (b) **Sponsor's Specifics.** A Sponsor MAY seal indefinitely: its drawings; its customers' information; its tolerances; its material specifications and formulations; its jig and fixture dimensions; and any identified trade secret of the Sponsor.
- (c) **Trade method.** The sequence of operations, the sensory cues, the failure modes and their early signs, the judgment and conditionals, and the reasoning by which the Practice is performed. Trade method is not sealed. It is published under §15.5, and a Sponsor may elect only to delay that publication under (d).
- (d) **Embargo.** A Sponsor MAY elect an embargo on publication of trade method of not more than ten years, running from the date the Record issues. On expiry the Practice Record publishes automatically, without further consent, without notice to any party and without any act by the Registrar being required. No embargo on trade method may exceed ten years, be renewed, or be made indefinite, by any agreement, and an agreement purporting to do so is of no effect under this Standard.
- (e) **Anonymous publication.** A Sponsor MAY elect that a Practice Record publish without naming the Sponsor, the Master or the place of work. The Entry, the Lineage Numbers and the teacher links are unaffected and remain public under §6.2 — a lineage requires names, a method does not. Anonymous publication is available at no charge and may be combined with an embargo.
- (f) **Comparison disclosure.** Before an embargo is elected or priced, the Registrar MUST show the Sponsor which elements of the mapped method already appear in published Practice Records for the same Practice, and only elements not already public are eligible for embargo. The comparison is recorded with the Record. Most of what a shop believes is proprietary method is common to its trade; this clause settles that by evidence rather than by argument.

- (g) **Fees.** The Registrar's fees MAY differ by embargo term, and the shortest term MUST carry the lowest fee. No fee difference applies to anonymous publication.
- (h) Where Sponsor's Specifics and trade method cannot be separated within one document, the document is sealed and a redacted Practice Record is prepared and published in its place. The redacted Record states that it is redacted and what class of material was removed.
- (i) A Sponsor unwilling to accept publication on these terms should not commission a Transmission under this Standard. The Register does not accept a Record whose method can never be followed.

10. Integrity

10.1 Prohibited conduct.

- (a) A false Attestation.
- (b) Paying, or offering to pay, a Witness or a Master by outcome.
- (c) Describing a Record, an Entry, a Rank or the Mark as a license, a credential, a certification of competence or a warranty.
- (d) Using the Mark without Good Standing.
- (e) Evaluating, or purporting to evaluate, skill in the name of the Registrar.
- (f) Altering a Deposit after its Deposit Hash is published.

10.2 Complaints and findings. Anyone may complain to the Registrar. The Registrar investigates, gives the persons concerned an opportunity to respond, and publishes a finding on the Entry or Record concerned. A finding is reviewed on request by the Standards Council or, until the Council is constituted, by an independent reviewer appointed by the Registrar who holds no other role in the Registrar's business.

10.3 Consequences. An Attestation found false is annotated "found false" on the Record; Rank is recomputed without it; the person who made it is barred from attesting and, if a Witness, removed under §8.6. Where a Master is found to have attested falsely, every Record that Master has attested is annotated, and the Master's own Rank is recomputed without their attestations. A Master's lineage is the collateral for the Master's attestations; that, and not any grading by the Registrar, is what makes "to my standard" mean something. Nothing is deleted.

11. The Mark

11.1 Use. An Entry in Good Standing MAY display the Mark in the form "Root & Branch · Lineage No. ____" on work, listings, invoices, correspondence and plaques, and MAY add its Rank. Use by anyone else, by an Entry not in standing, or by a dormant Entry (§6.9(c)), is prohibited.

11.2 Plaques. A Lineage Plaque records, for a completed work, the Lineage Numbers of the practitioners who made it, the names in the chain as each has consented, the Domain, the year, this Standard's version and the Register address. Physical specification: Annex H.

11.3 Disclaimer. Every use of the Mark on printed or digital material MUST carry, or link to, this text: "A Root & Branch Lineage Number records a witnessed transmission of practice. It is not a license, a credential or a warranty of workmanship."

11.4 Ownership. The Mark is owned by the Registrar and used under license. On constitution of the Standards Entity, the Mark and this Standard pass to it (§12.4).

11.5 Reference in specifications and procurement.

- (a) The Registrar MAY publish model wording by which an owner or specifier requires work to be performed by an Entry in Good Standing in a named Practice. The model wording is published free of charge and its use is royalty-free.
- (b) Model wording MUST state that an Open Filing under §4.6 satisfies the requirement equally with a Record issued with an accredited Witness, and MUST carry the disclaimer in §11.3.
- (c) The Registrar MUST NOT accept any payment, discount or other consideration from a specifier, owner or trade body in exchange for the adoption of such wording, and MUST NOT make adoption conditional on the purchase of any service from the Registrar.

11.6 The license to display the Mark.

- (a) An Entry's display of the Mark under §11.1 is use under license from the Registrar, and is not use of a mark of the Entry's own.
- (b) The license is granted on entry, is limited to display in the form of §11.1 carrying the disclaimer of §11.3, and ends when the Entry ceases to be in Good Standing or becomes dormant under §6.9(c).
- (c) The Registrar exercises control over that use through the standing requirements of §6.6, the integrity provisions of §10, and the form and disclaimer requirements of §§11.1 and 11.3, and records each grant and each termination.
- (d) The Mark certifies that a Transmission was recorded under this Standard. It certifies nothing about skill, and §11.3 is a term of every license.

12. Governance and versions

12.1 Registrar. Root & Branch Register, Inc. is the Registrar and the publisher of this Standard until the Standards Entity is constituted.

12.2 Versions. Drafts are numbered 0.x; the first version in force is 1.0. A version enters force thirty days after publication for comment, with responses published. Changes apply to Records issued after the effective date; every Record states the version under which it was issued, and Records are never re-issued under a later version. Version 1.0 is published on the completion of a conformance trial under §12.7, or on January 1, 2027, whichever is first — the tenth-Record trigger carried in earlier drafts could never fire, because this section permits only one Record to issue under a draft. One Record, and only one, may so issue: a single demonstration Transmission, designated as such in writing before it begins, which states the draft version on its face and is marked “issued under draft” on the Register permanently. Every other Record awaits 1.0.

12.3 Comment. Comments on this Standard are received at standard@rootandbranchregister.org and published with the Registrar's responses.

12.4 Standards Entity and Council. When the Registrar files to register the Mark as a certification mark, or when five hundred Entries are in Good Standing, whichever is first, the Registrar MUST constitute a separate Standards Entity to hold this Standard, the Mark and the governance of the Register, with a

Standards Council of not fewer than five members, a majority of whom hold Root or Transmitting rank and none of whom is an officer of the operating company.

12.5 Operators. The Registrar MAY license others to conduct Transmissions and Enrollments under this Standard. Every Record still issues from the one Register.

12.6 Sequencing of the Mark.

- (a) The Registrar does not apply to register the Mark as a certification mark until a mark distinct from the Mark has been adopted and applied for in respect of services the Registrar itself performs — one mark cannot both certify the work of others and identify the Registrar's own services.
- (b) No application for either mark is transferred while it stands as an application based on intent to use for which no statement of use has been filed, except to a successor to the ongoing and existing business to which the mark pertains.
- (c) On constitution of the Standards Entity under §12.4, the certification mark and this Standard pass to it; the Registrar retains its own marks in respect of services it itself performs, and holds no right to certify.

12.7 Conformance trial.

- (a) Before 1.0 enters force the Registrar MAY conduct a conformance trial: a bounded set of Transmissions, not more than twelve, conducted in full under this Standard, for the purpose of establishing whether its requirements can be met in practice. A Standard that cannot be tried before it binds anyone is a Standard nobody has tested.
- (b) A trial Transmission is conducted in full conformance with §§4 and 15 and produces complete Practice Records. No Transmission Record issues from it while this Standard is in draft, and §12.2 is not thereby displaced.
- (c) On 1.0 entering force, each completed trial Transmission issues as an ordinary Record under 1.0, carrying the dates of the acts as they occurred. It is not marked “issued under draft”, having issued under 1.0. A participant loses nothing by having taken part early.
- (d) The Registrar publishes what the trial measured and what it found, including every respect in which this Standard proved unworkable, before 1.0 is published for comment. A trial whose results are not published is not a trial, and the comment period exists to act on them.
- (e) Participation in a trial is free, is free of any obligation to continue, and carries no charge at any later date. The demonstration Transmission permitted by §12.2 remains available and is unaffected.

13. Privacy and data

13.1 Public fields. Only the fields marked public in Annex A appear on the Register. Place is shown as city and state or country, never a street address. Year of birth is held privately and used only to distinguish persons of the same name.

13.2 Consent and withdrawal. A person consents to publication of their name at signing and may withdraw it at any time by notice to the Registrar; §5.5 applies. Withdrawal does not affect the Lineage Number, the Record or the Deposit Hash.

13.3 Minors and excluded data. No Entry is created for a person under eighteen. The Register holds no health information, no government identifiers, no financial information and no biometric identifier or biometric information about any person (§13.5).

13.4 Deposits. Access to Deposit materials is governed by §9; personal data within them is disclosed only as §9 allows.

13.5 Biometrics.

- (a) Liveness is verified at capture under §4.8(e). No biometric identifier or biometric information is created, collected, stored, converted to a template, disclosed, sold, leased, traded or otherwise profited from. What is retained is the result — verified or not verified — with a timestamp and the method used.
- (b) Where a liveness check processes an image or a voice sample, the sample is discarded at the moment the check returns and in no case retained beyond the session in which it was made.
- (c) Before any liveness check, the person is informed in writing that a check will be made, of its specific purpose, that nothing is retained, and for how long the result is held, and gives a written release. The notice and release are recorded as private fields of the Record.
- (d) The Registrar publishes its retention schedule for liveness results and destroys them on that schedule. Nothing in §3.8 requires the retention of a liveness result; permanence attaches to Records, not to verification artifacts.
- (e) Where the law of a participant's jurisdiction imposes stricter requirements, those requirements govern and the Registrar declines the check rather than perform it non-compliantly.

13.6 Consent to recording.

- (a) Every person appearing in Capture consents in writing before capture begins, and the consent states what is captured, who will hold it, who may see it, and the terms of §17.3.
- (b) That consent satisfies the requirements of jurisdictions in which all parties to a recording must consent. Where consent cannot be obtained from a person present, capture proceeds only if that person does not appear, and the session log records the exclusion.
- (c) A person MAY withdraw consent to further capture at any time. Withdrawal does not affect Capture already made, which is governed by §13.7.

13.7 Erasure and permanence.

- (a) Where a person has a right to erasure of personal data, the Registrar satisfies it by withdrawing the name under §5.5, deleting the Capture media in which that person appears, and de-identifying that person in the Practice Record.
- (b) The Lineage Number, the existence and date of the Record, the Deposit Hash, and the trade method in the Practice Record survive an erasure request — the first three being either not personal data or the minimum necessary to the Register's archiving purpose in the public interest, and the last being the trade's and not the individual's (§9.6(a)).
- (c) Every participant is told, in writing and before capture, exactly what can and cannot be erased later. A person who is unwilling to accept that boundary should not take part, and is told so at that point rather than after the fact.
- (d) The Registrar records that an erasure was performed, its date, and which classes of material were removed. The fact of erasure is itself part of the record; its content is not.

- (e) This section states the position this Standard takes. It does not determine the law of any jurisdiction, and the Registrar obtains a determination for each jurisdiction in which it captures before capturing there.

13.8 Outside the United States. Practitioners outside the United States are entered on the same terms, with the notices their law requires supplied at Enrollment or before the first Session.

13.9 Names not supplied by their subject.

- (a) Where the Registrar publishes the name of a person who did not supply it — a name compiled from material another body has already published — that name appears only in a publication available to the public at no charge, with its source cited.
- (b) Such a name **MUST NOT** be included in any dataset supplied for a fee, and **MUST NOT** be used to promote anything supplied for a fee. A name may appear in what is published; it may not be used to sell it.
- (c) The name is removed on the request of the person named, without condition and without inquiry into the reason.

14. Exclusions and limitations

14.1 Health and care trades. This Standard does not apply to any practice whose performance is regulated as health care, nursing, therapy, personal care, emergency medical service, or the handling of patients or clinical material, and no Domain of that kind will be listed in Annex F.

14.2 Regulated trades. Where a trade requires a license to practice, a Record neither confers nor implies that license, and the Register does not verify license status. Entries in such Domains carry the disclaimer of §11.3 on their public page.

14.3 No warranty. The Registrar makes no representation about the quality of any person's work, and Records are not to be relied on as such. Liability is limited as the Register Terms provide.

14.4 Precedence. Where this Standard and the Register Terms differ, the Register Terms govern the contractual relationship and this Standard governs the form and meaning of Records.

15. Practice Records

15.1 Requirement. A Practice Record is opened for every Practice named in the Map and carries every field of Annex C. No field is optional. A Transmission does not conform until each of its Practice Records is complete.

15.2 Depth. A Practice Record conforms when a competent practitioner of the same trade, who never met the Master and took no part in the Transmission, could attempt the Practice from the Practice Record alone (§1.8). Headings, checkboxes and observable outcomes do not meet this test.

15.3 Reproduction Test.

- (a) A Reproduction Test is an attempt at the Practice by such a practitioner, working from the Practice Record alone, captured under §4.8.
- (b) The result is recorded whether or not the attempt succeeds. A failed attempt is evidence that the Practice Record is incomplete, not that the practitioner is deficient, and it is recorded in those terms.
- (c) A Practice Record is marked “reproduced” only after a successful attempt, and the mark names the date and the tester’s Lineage Number.
- (d) A Reproduction Test is not a test of any person and no Rank turns on it.
- (e) A Reproduction Test is commissioned only where the tester is already competent and currently practicing in the trade, holds every license the Practice requires, and attempts the Practice on their own premises, with their own equipment, under their own insurance.
- (f) The Registrar does not direct the method, supervise the attempt, or provide equipment, materials or premises. It commissions a reading of a document and receives a report.
- (g) The tester acknowledges in writing, before the attempt, that they assess and accept the risk of the Practice as a practitioner of the trade, and that the Practice Record is a record of what one person said they do and not an instruction issued by the Registrar.
- (h) The Registrar MAY decline to commission a Reproduction Test of any Practice, and MUST decline where it cannot be attempted safely on those terms. A declination is recorded on the Practice Record with its reason, and the Record remains unmarked rather than marked reproduced.

15.4 Amendment. Practice Records are versioned. Any Entry in Good Standing MAY file a gap report identifying what the Record failed to convey; the Registrar puts it to the Master where the Master is living, and publishes an amended version. Amendments are additive and every superseded version remains readable (§3.8). A Practice Record is a living instruction, not a snapshot of one conversation.

15.5 Publication. Practice Records are public by default, published as plain text, one file per Record, under §17.1, and mirrored under §17.2. Sealing is confined to what §9.6 permits.

15.6 Taxonomy. The Registrar MAY publish, for any Domain, the set of Practice names and their scope as a taxonomy of that trade. A taxonomy is published against the Domain’s term identifier and forms the layer below it: the Trade Register names trades, a taxonomy names the Practices within one. A taxonomy contains no Sponsor’s sealed material and no Master’s unratified content.

15.7 License of the corpus. Practice Records, and taxonomies published under §15.6, are licensed under Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International (CC BY-SA 4.0), attributing the named Master and the Register. This is deliberately not the no-derivatives license that governs the text of this Standard (§1.7). The Standard must not fork, because there is one Register (§3.7). The corpus must be forkable,

because §15.4 amendment, translation into other languages, and the mirroring required by §17.2 are all derivative acts — and a corpus nobody may lawfully copy cannot survive by being copied (§3.12).

15.8 Rights in a Practice Record.

- (a) Each of the Master, the Successor and any Sponsor grants the Registrar, on signing the Map, 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 on the terms of §15.7. Nothing in the grant transfers ownership of any underlying know-how (§3.6, §9.5).
- (b) The grant is a condition of entry on the Register. A person unwilling to make it should not take part, and is told so before the first Session rather than after the Record issues.
- (c) Where a Sponsor elects Sealed status or an embargo under §9.6(d), the grant is not thereby defeated; it takes effect on publication.
- (d) Withdrawal of a name under §5.5 and erasure under §13.7 operate on identification. They do not operate on the license in trade method, which §9.6(a) holds to belong to the trade.
- (e) Without this grant the Registrar could not lawfully make the license in §15.7 — the Successor writes the Practice Sheet, the Master answers the elicitation, and a Sponsor may own the Deposit. A corpus published on rights nobody granted is not a corpus that can be mirrored (§17.2).

15.9 Composition of the corpus.

- (a) For every Practice Record published that arose from a Transmission a Sponsor commissioned, the Registrar publishes not fewer than one Practice Record that is unsponsored and unembargoed, captured at the Registrar's own cost or from funds carrying no direction as to what is captured.
- (b) No single Sponsor may account for more than one fifth of the Practice Records published in any calendar year, and no single Domain for more than one third. A corpus that is mostly one payer's, or mostly one trade's, is a different object from the one this Standard describes.
- (c) The Registrar publishes the ratio under (a) and the concentrations under (b) each year, whether or not they are met, alongside the count of Practice Records held.
- (d) Where the floor in (a) is not met, the Registrar **MUST NOT** accept a further sponsored commission until it is. The remedy is to capture what nobody is paying for, not to stop publishing what somebody paid for.
- (e) The constraints of this Standard were written to prevent the Register being captured by those who read it. They do not, by themselves, prevent its capture by those who pay for it — a corpus that is ninety per cent sponsored industrial method under embargo would breach no other clause in this document. This section is the missing floor.

16. Condition Observations

16.1 What is recorded. A Condition Observation is a dated record of the condition of work identified by a Work Record: what was observed, when, by what means, and any evidence. It is the only measure of correctness the Register accumulates, and it accumulates without anyone judging anyone.

16.2 Who may file. The owner of the work, a person authorized by the owner, or an inspector engaged in respect of the work. Identity is verified and the filer's relationship to the work is stated on the Observation.

16.3 Form. An Observation states facts about the work. It MUST NOT state a conclusion about any person, and any such statement is struck before publication.

16.4 No aggregation. The Registrar publishes Observations as filed and MUST NOT compute, publish, license or endorse any score, rating, ranking, index or average derived from them, and MUST NOT describe any Entry as better or worse than another. A reader draws their own conclusion from the record; the Registrar that rates becomes a rating agency, with a rating agency's liability and none of this Register's neutrality.

16.5 No charge. Filing an Observation is free, and always will be. The value of the Register is that the Observations exist.

16.6 Permanence. An Observation is never deleted. A disputed Observation is annotated under §10 and both the Observation and the annotation remain.

17. Custody and permanence

17.1 Form of publication. The Register is published as plain, self-describing text — one file per Entry, Record and Practice Record, with the schema written inside the file. It MUST be readable without the Registrar's software and without a running database. Anything legible only through an application is a record with the lifespan of that application.

17.2 Mirrors. The Registrar MUST maintain a complete public export, refreshed at least daily, and MUST invite and support not fewer than three independent parties to hold complete mirrors — preferring libraries, archives, trade bodies and universities over commercial hosts. The Registrar is one custodian among several, and no single party's failure ends the Register (§3.12).

17.3 The Record is permanent; the media is not. The Registrar undertakes to preserve the text of Entries, Records and Practice Records indefinitely. The Registrar does not undertake to preserve Capture media indefinitely, and says so rather than promising what no entity can deliver: media is preserved with best effort, migrated while it is practical to do so, and its hash is preserved with the Record permanently, so that any surviving copy can be verified against the Record forever.

17.4 Names and time. A name withheld under §5.5 is restored to the public Register twenty-five years after the death of the person, unless that person directed otherwise in writing at the time of withdrawal, in which case the direction governs and is itself recorded. The term matches the default for Sealed Deposits (§9.3(b)); a withholding that outlasts every person who could consent to its lifting serves nobody.

17.5 Succession. If the Registrar ceases to operate, the complete export passes to the successor archive named in the Register Terms, the mirrors continue unaffected, and the Standard and the Register pass to the Standards Entity (§12.4). No provision of this Standard depends on the Registrar's continued existence.

18. The Instrument

18.1 What it is and what it may not do. An Instrument is software, a model, a script or a sensor used to capture, prompt, transcribe, segment, structure, compare or flag. An Instrument asks; a named person asserts (§3.11). An Instrument **MUST NOT** alter, delete, re-interpret, summarize over or complete a ratified Record or Practice Record, and **MUST NOT** generate content that is presented as any person's statement.

18.2 Ownership. All copyright and all other rights in the Instrument, in every version, vest in the Registrar. Every person who contributes to it — employee, officer, contractor or volunteer — executes a written assignment of those rights to the Registrar before contributing, and no contribution is accepted without one. Commissioned software does not vest in the commissioning party by default, and the Instrument is the Registrar's principal built asset.

18.3 The protocol is open; the corpus is the asset. The elicitation protocol is published at Annex K under the license of §1.7 and may be implemented by anyone. That is deliberate. The protocol is a list of questions; what makes it work is §4.7(c) — the comparison of a Master's account against every Practice Record already held — and that depends on the corpus, which accumulates and cannot be copied from the outside.

18.4 Versions. Every version of an Instrument carries an identifier. A Record states the Instrument and version that elicited it (§4.9), and the Registrar retains each version, and a description of what it did, for as long as any Record elicited by it remains on the Register — so that a Record can always be read against the thing that produced it.

18.5 Failure and substitution. No provision of this Standard depends on any particular Instrument. Where an Instrument is unavailable, a Transmission proceeds under Annex K performed manually, at Tier 1, and the Record states that it was elicited without an Instrument.

19. Published assessments

19.1 What this section governs. The Registrar **MAY** publish an assessment of the condition of a trade, Practice or Domain, computed from published data by a published rule. An assessment names no person, and is not derived from Condition Observations — §16.4 governs those and is not displaced by this section.

19.2 The rule is published. The rule by which assessments are made is published with them, in a form that allows any party to re-run it against the same sources and reach the same result. An assessment whose rule is not published does not conform to this section.

19.3 Nothing contingent on content. No assessment may be altered, withheld, delayed or accelerated on account of any payment, and the Registrar **MUST NOT** accept a fee, discount or other consideration that is contingent on the content of any assessment.

19.4 Published before supplied. The Registrar **MUST NOT** perform an assessment privately for a single party, and **MUST NOT** supply an assessment to a paying party before publishing it. Every change of category is published with its cause. A register that assesses for a payer is a register that will be read as assessing for a payer.

19.5 Refutation. An assessment is a statement the Registrar believes to be true and invites to be refuted. A refutation from a practitioner of the trade assessed is published with attribution, unless the practitioner asks otherwise.

20. The Trade Register

20.1 What this section governs. The Trade Register is the authority file of Domain terms. It is a published file, separate from this Standard and versioned separately, and it is the only source from which a Domain may be named (§6.8). It sits between the Domain and the Practice: the Trade Register names trades, and a taxonomy published under §15.6 names the Practices within one.

20.2 Term identifiers are permanent. Each term carries an identifier that is assigned once. An identifier is never reassigned to a different trade, and never deleted. A term that is withdrawn, merged or rejected keeps its identifier and keeps resolving. Records, plaques and published citations name trades by these identifiers and are expected to outlive the people who made them, so an identifier that stops resolving breaks a citation the Register asked the world to rely on.

20.3 One label, one term. A label resolves to exactly one term. Where two terms are found to name the same trade, one becomes a variant of the other rather than being deleted: the superseded term records the surviving identifier, and a lookup of either returns the survivor. Variant labels are matched alongside preferred labels, so that a practitioner who writes “stone mason” reaches Stonemasonry without knowing the preferred form.

20.4 The occupation-code crosswalk. Each term carries the federal occupation code that reaches it, or records that no code does, with the reason. An absent code is a finding and is published as one; it is not missing data and is not left blank. The trades nearest to disappearing are frequently the trades no statistical series reaches, so a list that silently omitted them would omit exactly what this Register exists to hold.

20.5 Proposing a term. A trade the Trade Register does not list is proposed by naming it in a proposal field. Proposed text never enters a Domain field and never becomes a term by being submitted. The Registrar adjudicates each proposal within thirty days as a new term or as a variant of an existing one, and the applicant’s record thereafter names a term identifier either way. A proposal that is adjudicated as a new term takes effect on publication with thirty days’ public notice.

20.6 Rejected proposals are published. A rejected proposal is published with its identifier, its text and the reason for rejection. Whoever controls the list of trades controls who may be in the Register, which is a power of the kind §12.4 exists to constrain. A list that records only what it admitted cannot be audited; one that records what it refused, and why, can be.

20.7 Publication and mirrors. The Trade Register is published in full under the license that governs the corpus (§15.7), exported with the daily export under §17.1 and mirrored under §17.2. It is not withheld, tiered, or supplied to a paying party before publication, and §19.3 and §19.4 apply to it as they apply to an assessment.

20.8 Terms outside the scope of this Standard. A term may be carried for measurement while remaining outside the scope of this Standard. Such a term is marked as not enrollable, with the reason recorded, and no Entry is made within it. Health and care trades are carried this way where a published assessment measures them, and are not enrollable in any circumstance (§14.1).

20.9 Conformance of the file. The Trade Register is published together with its schema and a validator that any party may run. A file that does not validate against the published schema is not the Trade Register, whatever it is called. The validator checks what a schema cannot state: that identifiers are unique and permanent, that no label is claimed by two terms, that a variant chain terminates, and that an absent occupation code carries its reason.

20.10 Effect on Records already issued. A Record issued before this section takes effect is mapped to a term identifier by the Registrar, and the prose it originally carried is retained beside the identifier as a variant label or as a note. No Record is altered in substance and no Record is invalidated by this section. Where prose cannot be mapped to a term with confidence, a term is created for it rather than the Record being forced into a neighboring trade.

Annex A — Transmission Record fields

Field	Visibility	Note
Record ID	Public	RB-R-000001, sequential, never reassigned.
Standard version	Public	The version under which the Record issued (§12.2).
Domain	Public	The term identifier of a Domain in the Trade Register (§20). Never free text.
Practice Map	Public / Private	Per Practice: name and status (Attested / Not attested) and Proof date are public. Outcome descriptions and materials are private where the Deposit is Sealed.
Master	Public	Name or “withheld”; Lineage Number.
Successor	Public	Name or “withheld”; Lineage Number.
Witness(es)	Public	Name; Witness Number; presence mode per Session attested; “paid for time” or “unpaid”.
Sponsor	Public with consent	Name or “withheld”.
Dates	Public	First Session; Proof Session(s); issue.
Place(s)	Public	City and state or country (§13.1).
Sessions	Public	Count and total hours.
Consents	Private	Recording consent per person appearing (§13.6); liveness notice and release (§13.5(c)); acknowledgment of the erasure boundary (§13.7(c)).
Provenance	Public	Instrument and version that elicited the Record; Capture tier (§4.8); persons who asserted the content; whether a Reproduction Test has been passed (§4.9, §15.3).
Practice Records	Public	One per Practice, by identifier and version (§15). Embargo term and expiry date where elected; whether published anonymously; redacted where §9.6(h) applies (§9.6).

Field	Visibility	Note
Route	Public	Witnessed under §§4.2–4.4, or openly filed under §4.6. An openly filed Record is marked “openly filed” and states “no deposit” (§4.6(d)–(e)).
Deposit	Public	Deposit ID; Deposit Hash; Open or Sealed; unseal term where Sealed (§9.3(b)). Absent on an openly filed Record.
Attestations	Public text; private signatures	Master (B.1); Witness (B.2); Successor acknowledgment (B.5); Registrar countersignature (B.6).
Remarks	Public with consent	Free text by any party; never part of an Attestation (§5.2).
Supersedes / Supplemented by	Public	Record IDs (§5.3).
Annotations	Public	Errata (§5.4); findings (§10.3).

Annex B — Attestation wording

B.1 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.”*

B.2 Witness’s Attestation. *“I was present, in the modes recorded, for the sessions marked and for the Proof Session. I attest that they took place as recorded and that the Master’s attestations were given freely. I have no stake in the outcome. I was [paid for my time only / unpaid].”*

B.3 Teacher’s Enrollment Attestation. *“I taught [Applicant] the practice of [Domain] between [dates], at [place]. I attest that [Applicant] received it from me.”*

B.4 Peer Attestation (§5.6). *“I knew at first hand that [Teacher] taught [Applicant] the practice of [Domain] during [period], because [one sentence]. I attest to that teaching relationship. I have no stake in this Entry.”*

B.5 Successor’s acknowledgment. *“I received these practices from [Master]. I acknowledge this Record and consent to publication of the fields marked public.”*

B.6 Registrar’s countersignature. *“This Record conforms in form to the Root & Branch Transmission Standard, version [x]. The Registrar attests nothing else.”*

B.7 Open Filing attestations (§4.6). *Master and Successor: “We recorded the practices listed in this filing. I taught them / I received them. On [date] the Successor performed each practice marked Attested, and the Master attests that each was performed to the Master’s own standard. No one paid anyone for these attestations.” Each Filing Witness: “I hold Lineage No. ___ in good standing. I was present for the sessions and the proof session recorded here. I attest that they took place as recorded and that the Master’s attestation was given freely. I have no stake in the outcome and I was not paid. This is my [first / second / third / fourth] Open Filing as Filing Witness in the last twelve months.”*

B.8 Peer Reviewer’s Attestation (§8.8). *“I hold Lineage No. ___ in good standing in this Domain. I have reviewed the capture identified here. I attest that the practice named was performed in it. I was not asked, and do not state, whether it was performed well. I have no stake in this Record, I was not paid, and I reviewed without sight of any other reviewer’s attestation.”*

Annex C — The Practice Record

One Practice Record per Practice. Every field is required. A field that cannot be completed is answered “asked; not answered” with the date, never left blank (§4.7(f)). This annex replaces the task table carried at Annex C in versions 0.1 and 0.2, which recorded a heading and a checkbox and would have produced an index rather than an instruction.

Field	What it must contain
Identifier and version	Practice Record ID; version number; Domain; the Practice name as used in the trade, and any other names it goes by.
What the Practice is	One paragraph a practitioner in another trade could follow: what is being done and to what.
Preconditions	The state the work, the material and the site must be in before beginning, and how each is verified. What makes a job unsuitable to start.
Materials	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.
Tools	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. In most trades this is half the skill and it is almost never written down.
Sequence	The operations in order, each with what it is for. Where order matters and why; where it does not.
Sensory cues	What it looks, sounds, smells and feels like when it is going right, in the Master’s own words. When the mortar takes a thumbprint. When the chip changes color. When it stops fighting you. This is the first content to die and the reason the Record exists.
Failure modes	What going wrong looks like at the earliest point it can be seen or felt, before it is visible to anyone else; what causes it; what to do about it; and when the work must be undone rather than corrected.
Judgment and conditionals	The branching: if the material comes in soft, then; in cold, then; on an older building, then. The cases a manual flattens into a single instruction.
Acceptance	How the practitioner knows the Practice is finished and right, and what they check last.
Why	The reasoning. Reasoning is what allows a later practitioner to handle a case this Record does not cover, and without it the Record is a recipe rather than an understanding.
Provenance of the	What the Master was taught, from whom; what the Master changed and why;

Field	What it must contain
method	what the Master believes their own teacher had wrong. The method's own lineage.
Time and difficulty	How long the Practice takes a competent hand; where a novice loses time; roughly how long it took the Master to become reliable at it.
Questions asked	The elicitation transcript: every question put and every answer given, including questions declined or unanswered (§4.7(f)).
Ratification	The Master's line-by-line ratification of this Record (§3.11), dated.
Reproduction	Reproduction Test attempts: date, tester's Lineage Number, outcome, and where the tester got stuck (§15.3).
Amendments	Gap reports received and the amendments made, with versions (§15.4).

By signing below each party grants the license in §15.8. The grant covers the Practice Record and the elicitation transcript, takes effect on publication, and does not transfer ownership of any know-how.

Signed: Master _____ Successor _____ Sponsor (if any) _____ Date _____

Annex D — Session log

Date	Place	Duration	Practices covered	Present	Witness mode	Record ed	Notes
					In Person / Live Remote / Recorded Review	Y / N	

Kept by the Witness for Sessions attested, and by the Master otherwise. Deposited in full.

Annex E — Deposit manifest and hash

E.1 Manifest. A JSON document with these fields: record_id; standard_version; domain; parties[] (role, lineage_number, name_or_withheld); practices[] (name, status, proof_date); sessions[] (date, place, minutes, practices[], witness_mode, witness_number); files[] (path, sha256, bytes, media_type, description); seal (open | sealed, unseal_term_years, unseal_conditions); created_at.

E.2 Canonical form and hash. The manifest is canonicalized under the JSON Canonicalization Scheme, RFC 8785. The Deposit Hash is the SHA-256 digest of the canonical bytes, written as sixty-four lowercase hexadecimal characters.

E.3 Verification. Anyone holding the manifest can recompute the Deposit Hash and compare it with the Register. Anyone holding a file can check its digest against the manifest.

E.4 Anchoring. The daily Register digest (§6.4) covers each day's new Deposit Hashes, so a Deposit can be shown to have existed on the day its Record issued.

Annex F — Domains

The list of Domains is the Trade Register, published as a separate file under §20 and not reproduced here. Every Domain this Annex named in versions 0.1 through 0.8 is carried into it as a term, with its identifier, its variant labels and its occupation-code crosswalk. Seven of those Domains reach no assessed trade and no federal occupation code — timber framing; stained and leaded glass; decorative painting, gilding and sign lettering; wood and paint conservation; industrial electrical and controls; pipe organ building; and witnessing, which is a Register role rather than a trade. Each is carried with that fact recorded against it rather than silently dropped.

No health or care Domain is listed (§14.1). Terms the published assessment measures but this Standard does not enroll are carried as out of scope, with the reason recorded, so that the assessment and the Domain list can be read against one another.

Annex G — Witness Manual (outline)

To be written from the first six Transmissions. Sections: 1 Role and independence · 2 Presence modes and equipment · 3 The log · 4 The Proof Session · 5 What a Witness does not do · 6 Pressure, and how to refuse · 7 Confidentiality · 8 Filing the Attestation · 9 The Witness's own Record.

Annex H — Lineage Plaque

Required content. The Mark; the words “Made by hand, in lineage”; the Lineage Numbers, and consented names, of the practitioners; the Domain or Domains; the year; this Standard's version; the Register address or a code resolving to the Entries; and the §11.3 disclaimer in small text.

Physical. Cast bronze or stainless steel, not smaller than 6 by 4 inches (150 by 100 mm); specification to be fixed on receipt of foundry quotations.

Annex K — Elicitation protocol

The questions the Instrument puts, and the Successor asks, for each Practice. The protocol is versioned; the version used is recorded on the Practice Record. Experts cannot see their own assumptions, so the questions are scripted rather than left to the room.

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.

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?

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?

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?

Annex L — Capture and hashing

Minimum requirements for Tier 1 and Tier 2 Capture (§4.8).

- (a) Each segment is hashed with SHA-256 at the moment of capture, on the capturing device, before any transfer.
- (b) Each segment's record carries the previous segment's hash, forming a chain per Practice Record. The chain head is submitted to the Registrar and included in the daily digest under §6.4.
- (c) Each segment carries its own start and end time, duration, device attestation where available, and a liveness check at start.
- (d) A gap in the chain is recorded as a gap and is not an error to be smoothed over. The Record shows what was captured and what was not.
- (e) The chain evidences sequence and elapsed time. It does not evidence what the media depicts; that is what the attestations and, in Tier 2, the Peer Reviewers are for.
- (f) Where an Instrument transcribes, segments or structures Capture, its output is a draft until ratified under §3.11, and the Instrument and version are recorded.

Annex I — Change log

Version	Date	Change
0.9	September 20, 2026	Added §20, the Trade Register: an authority file of Domain terms with permanent identifiers, resolving variant labels, an explicit federal occupation-code crosswalk in which an absent code is recorded as a finding, a proposal route for trades not yet listed, and publication of rejected proposals with their reasons. Replaced §6.8 so that a Domain is named by term identifier and never in free text. Conformed §15.6 and the Annex C Domain field. Replaced the Annex F prose list with the Trade Register, carrying

Version	Date	Change
		every Domain it named, including seven that reach no assessed trade. No other clause changed meaning.
0.8	September 19, 2026	Replaced §12.2 to remove an unreachable trigger: version 1.0 now publishes on completion of a conformance trial or on January 1, 2027, whichever is first. Added §12.7 conformance trial — up to twelve Transmissions conducted in full before 1.0, producing complete Practice Records that issue as ordinary Records under 1.0, with findings published before the comment period. No other clause changed meaning.
0.7	September 19, 2026	Added §15.9 composition of the corpus — a one-for-one floor of unsponsored Practice Records, concentration limits by Sponsor and by Domain, annual publication of both figures, and a bar on further sponsored commissions while the floor is unmet. No existing clause changed meaning.
0.6	September 19, 2026	Added §1.9 patents; §11.6 the license to display the Mark; §12.6 sequencing of the Mark; §13.9 names not supplied by their subject; §15.8 rights in a Practice Record; §19 published assessments; and the grant line at Annex C. Replaced §9.5 to carry the §15.8 license in place of a publication license. Ordered §§15.6 and 15.7. No existing clause changed meaning except §9.5, which now grants what §15.7 requires.
0.5	September 19, 2026	Corrections of form. Struck the superseded §4.1 heading, §7.3, §10.3 and §13.3, each of which had been left standing beside the clause that replaced it. Renumbered “Outside the United States” from §13.5 to §13.8, §13.5 having been assigned to biometrics in v0.4. Retitled §7.3 and §10.3 to drop “— amended”. Ordered this change log. No provision changed meaning.
0.4	September 18, 2026	Added §5.7 interrupted Transmission; §§13.5–13.7 biometrics, recording consent, erasure and permanence; §15.3(e)–(h) conditions for commissioning a Reproduction Test; §15.7 CC BY-SA license of the corpus; §18 the Instrument, its ownership and its limits; Annex A consents field. Amended §13.3 to exclude biometric identifiers.
0.3	September 18, 2026	Changed what a Record must contain. Added §1.8; §§3.10–3.12; §4.7 Elicitation; §4.8 Capture in three tiers; §4.9 provenance; §8.8 Peer Reviewers; §9.6 publication of method, with indefinite sealing confined to Sponsor’s Specifics and trade method subject only to a ten-year maximum embargo, anonymous publication and a comparison disclosure; §15 Practice Records and the Reproduction Test; §16 Condition Observations; §17 Custody and permanence; Annex B.8; Annex K Elicitation protocol; Annex L Capture and hashing. Rewrote Annex C from a task table into the Practice Record. Amended §4.1, §7.3 and §10.3. Existing clause numbers unchanged.
0.2	September 17, 2026	Added §3.9 compliance without purchase; §4.6 Open Filing; §6.9

Version	Date	Change
		Transmission Currency; §8.7 Filing Witnesses; §11.5 reference in specifications and procurement; Annex B.7; Annex J. Amended §6.6 and §11.1 for currency and dormancy. Resolved the eighteen v0.1 review comments: §1.7 license named; §6.2(a) standing states; §6.5 permanent address form and mailboxes; §12.2 demonstration Record under draft; Annex A route field.
0.1	September 16, 2026	First draft for review.

Annex J — Resolution of v0.1 review comments

The eighteen margin comments raised on version 0.1 are resolved as follows. Where a comment explained a choice already carried in the text, the choice is adopted as drafted and the explanation is recorded here rather than left in the margin.

Comment	Disposition	Where
Institutional mailboxes	Adopted. Both mailboxes named in the text.	§6.5, §12.3
License for the text	Resolved. CC BY-ND 4.0 named; implementation right kept royalty-free and outside the license.	§1.7
Witnessed teaching Session per Practice	Adopted as drafted. Retained over a Proof-only witness; it is what makes the Record one of transmission rather than of testing, and it sets the witness day count.	§4.2, §8.2
Witness at the Proof Session	Adopted as drafted. Live Remote keeps the cost manageable at distance.	§4.3, §8.2, §8.4
Effect of peer attestation	Adopted as drafted. Counts for the applicant and for generation counts only; confers no rank on any living person.	§5.6
One Entry per Domain	Adopted as drafted. Numbers attach to Entries, not persons.	§6.1
Standing fees and the first year	Out of scope for the Standard. A commercial term; the Standard refers to the Register Terms and	§6.6

Comment	Disposition	Where
	states no price.	
Root rank at three links	Adopted as drafted. Three successive links, historical and peer-attested links counting.	§7.3
Sealed Deposit default term	Adopted as drafted. Twenty-five years from the Master's death, electable from zero to fifty.	§9.3(b)
Ownership of recordings	Adopted. Sponsor owns; Registrar holds a perpetual archival license and the published hash. The business plan's legal design has been conformed to this.	§9.5
Interim review of findings	Adopted as drafted. One independent reviewer with no other role, until the Council is constituted.	§10.2, §12.4
Fixed disclaimer wording	Adopted as drafted. Required on every use of the Mark and on every plaque.	§11.3, Annex H
1.0 trigger and Succession Zero	Resolved. One demonstration Transmission may issue under a draft version, designated in advance and marked on the Register permanently; all other Records await 1.0. The Status block is conformed.	Status, §12.2
Publishing comments and responses	Adopted as drafted.	§12.3
Place precision floor	Adopted as drafted. City and state or country; never a street address.	§13.1
Health and care exclusion	Adopted as drafted, as a hard exclusion. No health or care Domain will be listed, and Enrollment in those fields is declined rather than	§14.1, Annex F

Comment	Disposition	Where
	accommodated.	
Initial Domain list	Adopted as drafted. Additions on request with thirty days' notice.	§6.8, Annex F
Plaque specification	Adopted as drafted, provisional. Dimensions stand until foundry quotations are received.	Annex H

The margin comments carried on this version are new, and remain open for review.