

REFERENCE

What the register records

The register holds four distinct objects. They are recorded separately, attested by different people, and answer different questions. Most of the design of the Transmission Standard sits in keeping them apart, because the credibility of each one depends on its not being confused with the others.

One sentence each. An Entry is a person in a trade, with a permanent number. A Transmission Record is an event: that a named person taught a named person named practices, and who attested it. A Practice Record is the method itself, in enough detail for a stranger in the trade to attempt it. A Condition Observation is a dated fact about how a finished piece of work has held up.			
Object	What it asserts	Who attests it	Where it comes from
Entry	That this person practices in this trade, and who their teachers and students are	The registrar, on identity and form only	Enrollment, or a record naming the person
Transmission Record	That teaching occurred, and that named practices were performed to the master's own standard	The master, and separately a witness	One completed transmission
Practice Record	How the practice is actually done	The master, line by line	Elicitation by the successor during the transmission
Condition Observation	How a finished piece of work stood up, on a date	The owner of the work, or an inspector	Filed at any time, by anyone entitled to file

Clause references throughout are to the Root & Branch Transmission Standard, version 0.4.

LAYER ONE

The Entry — a person, in one trade

An Entry is a person's presence on the register within a single domain, identified by a Lineage Number of the form RB-000001, assigned sequentially and never reassigned (§6.1). A person who works in two domains holds two Entries and two numbers. Numbers attach to Entries, not to people.

Visibility	Fields
Public	Lineage Number · name, or "withheld" · domain · rank · teacher links, by the teacher's Lineage Number · student links · records, by identifier, date, route, deposit hash and seal status · standing, shown as in standing, dormant or closed · date of entry · place, as city and state or country, at the holder's option
Private	Contact details · year of birth, held only to distinguish two people of the same name · the documents supporting an enrollment

Rank is computed, never granted

Three ranks, each derived from the records themselves and recomputed whenever a record is added, supplemented or annotated (§7). Rank cannot be purchased, examined for, applied for, or awarded by discretion.

- **Received** — the Entry has at least one teacher link supported by a record in which the holder is successor with at least one practice attested, or by an enrollment attestation.

- **Transmitting** — the holder is master on at least one issued record with at least one practice attested.
- **Root** — at least one chain of three successive student links descends from the Entry, each link supported by a peer-reviewed or witnessed record. Links resting only on the lowest capture tier or on an open filing count toward Received rank and toward currency, and deliberately do not count toward Root: without that limit a small group could manufacture a root lineage in a handful of filings.

Rank describes the documented shape of a lineage. It is not a grade of skill, seniority or quality and may not be described as one (§7.5).

Standing and dormancy

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 (§6.9). Currency is computed from the register and is never satisfied by payment, examination or discretion. An Entry that does not meet it is shown as dormant: it keeps its number, its records, its links and its computed rank, and loses only the right to display the mark. An Entry whose holder has died is shown as closed, and rank derived through it is unaffected.

LAYER TWO

The Transmission Record — an event

A record states that a transmission occurred and who attested it. Nothing further may be claimed for it: it does not assess skill, license anyone to practice, certify competence, or warrant workmanship (§1.4).

Two attestations, two questions (§3.2).

The **master** answers one: did the successor perform this practice to my standard? The standard is explicitly the master's own, and the Standard sets no external standard of performance. The **witness** answers another: did this take place as recorded, and was the master's attestation given freely? Neither is permitted to answer the other's question, and the registrar's countersignature attests only that the record conforms in form.

The twenty fields

Field	Visibility	Content
Record ID	Public	RB-R-000001, sequential, never reassigned.
Standard version	Public	The version under which the record issued. Records are never re-issued under a later version.
Domain	Public	The trade or field, from the published domain list.
Practice Map	Public / private	Per practice: name, status (attested or 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". Typically an employer, where one commissioned the transmission.
Dates	Public	First session; proof session or sessions; issue.
Place(s)	Public	City and state, or country. Never a street address.
Sessions	Public	Count and total hours.
Consents	Private	Recording consent per person appearing; liveness notice and release; acknowledgment of the erasure boundary.
Provenance	Public	The instrument and version that elicited the record; the capture tier; the persons who asserted the content; whether a reproduction test has been passed.
Practice Records	Public	One per practice, by identifier and version. Embargo term and expiry where elected; whether published anonymously; whether redacted.
Route	Public	Witnessed, or openly filed. An openly filed record is marked as such and states "no deposit".

Field	Visibility	Content
Deposit	Public	Deposit ID; deposit hash; open or sealed; unseal term where sealed. Absent on an openly filed record.
Attestations	Public text, private signatures	Master; witness; successor's acknowledgment; registrar's countersignature. Fixed wording; additions go in remarks and are never part of an attestation.
Remarks	Public with consent	Free text by any party.
Supersedes / supplemented by	Public	Record IDs. A later proof session produces a supplement; both records remain.
Annotations	Public	Errata, and findings under the integrity provisions.

Three tiers of capture, none equivalent to another

Every record states the tier in which it was captured (§4.8). **Tier 1, instrumented** — recorded by the parties, each segment hashed at the moment of capture on the capturing device and chained to the previous one; no witness attends. This is the default. **Tier 2, peer-reviewed** — tier 1, plus two or three independent peer reviewers who attest that the named practice was performed, and who are forbidden to say whether it was performed well. **Tier 3, witnessed** — an accredited witness attends; available to any party and required of none.

The chain of hashes cannot be assembled after the fact, and in tiers 1 and 2 it is what evidences that sessions occurred as recorded. A gap in the chain is recorded as a gap, not smoothed over. Capture during ordinary work is preferred over a demonstration performed for a camera.

LAYER THREE

The Practice Record — the method itself

This is the object the register exists to produce, and the one nothing else collects. One practice record per practice, every field required. A field that cannot be completed is answered “asked; not answered” with the date, never left blank — because a later reader is entitled to know what was asked.

The conformance test (§15.2). 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 record alone. Headings, checkboxes and observable outcomes do not meet this test. A record that states only who transmitted what, and when, preserves the fact of a practice and not the practice.	
Field	What it must contain
Identifier and version	Record ID; version; 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.
Failure modes	What going wrong looks like at the earliest point it can be seen or felt; 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 the record does not cover; without it the record is a recipe rather than an understanding.
Provenance of the method	What the master was taught and from whom; what the master changed and why; what the master believes their own teacher had wrong.
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.

Ratification	The master's line-by-line ratification of the record, dated.
Reproduction	Reproduction test attempts: date, tester's Lineage Number, outcome, and where the tester got stuck.
Amendments	Gap reports received and the amendments made, with versions.

How the content gets out of the master

Elicitation is performed by the successor, assisted by an instrument, under a scripted protocol (§4.7). The successor asks and the master answers, in that direction and not the other: a competent novice in the trade asks the questions a practitioner has stopped noticing, and a person who does not know the trade cannot ask them at all. Where the successor's attempt diverges from the master's, the divergence is put to the master as a question — failure in transmission is the primary source of tacit content, and it arises without being manufactured.

The instrument asks; the person asserts (§3.11). Software, a model, a script or a sensor may ask, prompt, transcribe, segment, structure, compare and flag. It may not assert. Nothing enters a record unless a named person has ratified it as their own statement, and unratified content is excluded rather than softened. Every record states on its face which instrument elicited it and who asserted it.

The reproduction test

A reproduction test is an attempt at the practice by a competent practitioner working from the practice record alone. The result is recorded whether or not the attempt succeeds, and a failed attempt is recorded as evidence that the record is incomplete — not that the practitioner is deficient. It is not a test of any person and no rank turns on it (§15.3).

What a sponsor may and may not seal

Know-how belongs to whoever held it before the transmission, so a sponsor cannot seal what was never its own (§9.6). A sponsor may seal indefinitely its own drawings, customer information, tolerances, material formulations, jig and fixture dimensions, and identified trade secrets. **Trade method** — the sequence of operations, the sensory cues, the failure modes and their early signs, the judgment and conditionals, and the reasoning — is not sealable. A sponsor may only delay its publication, by an embargo of not more than ten years, which cannot be renewed or made indefinite by any agreement, and on whose expiry the practice record publishes automatically without further consent or any act by the registrar.

Before an embargo is elected, the registrar must show the sponsor which elements of the mapped method already appear in published practice records for the same practice; only elements not already public are eligible. Most of what a shop believes is proprietary method is common to its trade, and this settles that by evidence rather than by argument. A sponsor may also elect anonymous publication — the method publishes without naming the sponsor, the master or the place of work, at no charge — because a lineage requires names and a method does not.

LAYER FOUR

Condition Observations — how the work held up

A dated record of the condition of a piece of finished work: what was observed, when, by what means, and any evidence (§16). Filed free of charge by the owner of the work, someone authorized by the owner, or an inspector engaged in respect of it. Filing is free and always will be; the value is that the observations exist.

An observation states facts about the work. It may not state a conclusion about any person, and any such statement is struck before publication.

No aggregation, permanently. The registrar publishes observations as filed and may not compute, publish, license or endorse any score, rating, ranking, index or average derived from them, and may not describe any Entry as better or worse than another. A reader draws their own conclusion from the record. A registrar that rates becomes a rating agency, with a rating agency's liability and none of this register's neutrality.

What is never recorded

- **No assessment of skill by anyone but the master**, and the master's assessment is recorded as the master's own. The registrar and witnesses record what occurred; they do not evaluate whether a practice was performed well.
- **No license, certification or warranty.** Describing a record, an entry, a rank or the mark as any of these is prohibited conduct. Where a trade requires a license to practice, a record neither confers nor implies it and the register does not verify license status.
- **No health information, government identifiers, financial information or biometric identifiers** about any person.
- **No street addresses.** Place is published as city and state, or country.
- **No entry for anyone under eighteen.**
- **No health or care domain**, at all. Any practice whose performance is regulated as health care, nursing, therapy, personal care, emergency medical service, or the handling of patients or clinical material is outside the Standard, and enrollment in those fields is declined rather than accommodated.
- **Nothing deleted.** Entries and records are corrected by erratum, annotated, or superseded — never removed. A name withdrawn from publication becomes "withheld" while the Lineage Number, the record and the deposit hash remain.

POSITION

Where each current asset sits

The four layers are not equally populated, and the distinction matters for what can honestly be claimed of each body of work now held.

Asset	Which layer, and what it is not
The transmission index — 3,130 harvested pairings	None of the four. It is a bibliography: pairings that public programs have already published, each with a source link. Nobody has attested anything. These become Entries and teacher links only if a program routes them through the adoption format, or if the people themselves enroll.
The institutional adoption format	Layers one and two only — the person and the event. It carries a Lineage Entry: a named person taught a named person a named practice in a named year, attested by the organization that administered it. It has no field for method, because a program cannot attest on a master's behalf, and the format gives it no way to try.
The American Red List	None of the four. It assesses risk at the level of a trade, from published federal data, and contains no person and no method. Its function is to say where the loss is fastest, not who holds what.
Practice Records held today	Zero. This is the layer that can come only from a master, is the only one that survives them, and is the whole reason for the apparatus above it. The first demonstration transmission is what produces the first one.
The asymmetry is the point. Everything built so far produces the map of who taught whom — which is cheap to gather, already largely public, and valuable mostly as a way of finding people while they are still alive to ask. The layer that is expensive, that nobody else has, and that keeps its value after every person named in it has died, has no entries yet.	

Root & Branch Register Inc. · Reference note, September 2026 · Conformed to Transmission Standard v0.4. This note summarizes; where it and the published Standard differ, the Standard governs.