

Promotion Rules and Gates

Rules for deciding when a capability truly belongs above its earliest usable stage

PURPOSE

This guide is part of the v1.8 editorial test library. It explains how to use the structure without treating the current proposal as irrevocable.

The six dependency gates

Power	What energy continuity is mandatory?	Human/animal, biomass, local mechanical, reliable electric, grid, precision continuous
Tooling	What equipment and precision are mandatory?	Improvised, hand tools, workshop, heavy infrastructure, precision facility
Materials	How deep and pure must supply chains be?	Found/local, community stock, standardized industrial, regional, high-purity
Workforce	What specialization is mandatory?	Field user, apprentice, technician, engineer/institution, specialist scientist
Scale	What fixed scale is mandatory?	Individual, community, workshop, regional network, advanced facility
Coordination	What organization is mandatory?	Small group, community, enterprise, public system, advanced regulatory/scientific system

CALCULATION

The earliest fully usable stage is the highest confirmed requirement across the six gates. Review the simplest useful implementation, not modern best practice.

Mandatory decision rules

- Day-one test: if it prevents immediate loss and works with available resources, create an A0 form.
- Historical-precedent test: if a useful form existed before grid electricity, create an A1 or A0 form.
- Salvage assumption: survivors can identify, isolate, recover, refurbish, adapt, and apprentice. Do not model A1 as helpless.
- Split rule: broad subjects must be split into manual, workshop, network, precision, and frontier forms when dependencies differ.
- Naming rule: unqualified names belong to the earliest useful form. Higher folders must state the dependency that raises them.
- No prestige promotion: difficulty, publication date, modernity, and academic status do not by themselves raise a capability.
- No silent demotion of safety: hazardous methods can appear early when the early form teaches recognition, isolation, containment, and safe handling.

Worked examples

Casting	Small foundry and sand casting	A2 industrial foundry and controlled casting
Wind power	Mechanical windmills and wind pumps	A2 electric turbines and controls
Sanitation	Latrines, soap, boiling, safe chlorine use	A2 process control; A3 municipal networks
Electrical systems	Salvage, isolation, rewinding, basic testing	A2 manufacture, regulation, powered workshops
Tidal power	Mechanical current/wave power	A2 tidal electric generation