
2026 EDGE Awards

Peer Nomination Guide

Shop Safety & Excellence Award

The **EDGE Shop Safety & Excellence Award** recognizes an ISFA Fabricator Member shop that demonstrates an outstanding commitment to workplace safety, employee training, professional shop conditions and operational excellence.

Unlike other EDGE Award categories, **Shop Safety & Excellence may not be self-nominated**. A separate company must sponsor and submit the nomination on the shop's behalf.

This guide will help you prepare a strong, complete nomination.

1. Who Can Be Nominated?

The nominee must be an eligible **ISFA Fabricator Member shop**.

The award is intended to recognize shops that demonstrate excellence in areas including:

- Workplace safety
- Employee safety training
- Safe operating practices
- Shop organization and conditions
- Equipment and material handling
- Safety culture
- Operational excellence
- Continuous improvement

Important

A shop cannot nominate itself.

The nomination must be submitted by another company that has enough familiarity with the nominated shop to speak meaningfully about its safety practices and operations.

2. Who Should Submit the Nomination?

The sponsoring company should have a professional relationship with the nominated shop and be able to provide credible information about why the shop deserves recognition.

A sponsor could be an industry partner, supplier, manufacturer, distributor or another company familiar with the nominee's operations.

When preparing your nomination, be ready to explain **your relationship to the nominated shop** and why you are qualified to recommend them.

3. Before You Begin

Gather your information before opening the online nomination form.

Have the following ready:

About Your Company

- Sponsoring company name
- Your name and title
- Email address
- Phone number
- Your relationship to the nominated shop

About the Nominee

- Company name
- Location
- Primary contact
- Contact information
- ISFA membership information, if requested

Supporting Information

Prepare specific examples that demonstrate the nominee's performance in the four areas judges will evaluate.

4. Safety Program & Training

30% of the Score

Judges will evaluate the strength and consistency of the shop's safety programs and employee training.

Consider providing information about:

- Employee safety orientation
- Ongoing safety training
- PPE requirements and practices
- Silica and dust-control measures
- Equipment safety training
- Written safety procedures
- Safety meetings
- Emergency preparedness
- Employee participation and accountability

When Writing Your Nomination

Don't simply say:

"They take safety very seriously."

Explain **how you know**.

For example, describe specific training practices, programs, procedures or behaviors you've observed.

Specific evidence makes a stronger nomination than general praise.

5. Shop Conditions

25% of the Score

Judges will consider the condition of the shop and how the physical environment supports safe, professional operations.

Consider:

- Cleanliness
- Organization
- Equipment condition
- Equipment maintenance
- Material storage
- Material handling
- Work areas and walkways
- Dust collection
- Safety signage
- Overall shop environment

If photographs are requested, choose images that accurately represent the shop's **normal operating conditions**.

6. Safety Record & Culture

25% of the Score

A strong safety program goes beyond policies and paperwork.

Judges will look for evidence that safety is part of the company's everyday culture.

Consider examples of:

- Employee participation
- Leadership involvement
- Safety accountability
- Hazard identification

- Incident prevention
- Reporting procedures
- Continuous improvement
- Communication about safety
- Employee engagement

If you have knowledge of the nominee's safety performance or improvements over time, include specific information where appropriate.

Do not submit confidential employee or medical information.

7. Operational Excellence

20% of the Score

Judges will also evaluate how effectively the shop combines safe practices with strong overall operations.

Consider:

- Workflow
- Quality control
- Equipment management
- Employee development
- Training
- Communication
- Professional operating standards
- Continuous improvement

Explain how the company's commitment to safety contributes to—or works alongside—its overall operational excellence.

8. Tell Judges Why This Shop Stands Out

Your nomination should answer one central question:

Why does this shop deserve to be recognized?

Give judges something concrete to remember.

Instead of relying on statements such as:

“They are one of the best shops we work with.”

Tell the judges **what makes them one of the best.**

A useful approach is:

Claim → Evidence → Impact

Claim:

What does the shop do exceptionally well?

Evidence:

What specific practice, program, result or example supports that statement?

Impact:

How does it benefit employees, workplace safety, operations or the broader organization?

9. Gather Supporting Materials

Before beginning the nomination, gather any supporting materials that may help demonstrate the nominee's accomplishments.

Depending on what the nomination form requests, this may include:

- Shop photographs
- Safety program information
- Training information
- Safety documentation
- Examples of procedures or initiatives
- Testimonials or references
- Other relevant supporting evidence

Only submit materials you have permission to provide.

10. Review the Scoring Rubric

Before submitting, review your nomination against all four criteria:

Criterion	Weight
Safety Program & Training	30%
Shop Conditions	25%
Safety Record & Culture	25%
Operational Excellence	20%
Total	100%

Ask yourself:

Have I given the judges enough information to evaluate every one of these areas?

If one area has very little supporting information, strengthen it before submitting.

11. Complete Your Nomination

When you're ready, complete the official **EDGE Awards Peer Nomination Form**.

Peer Nomination Form

Shop Safety & Excellence Award

Your Jotform link:

<https://form.jotform.com/262225843522151>

Complete all required fields, upload the requested supporting materials and review the nomination carefully before submitting.

12. Final Checklist

Before submitting your nomination, confirm:

- ☐ The nominated shop is eligible for the award.
 - ☐ My company is sponsoring another shop and this is **not a self-nomination**.
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- ☐ I explained my company's relationship to the nominee.
 - ☐ I provided specific examples rather than general praise.
 - ☐ I addressed **Safety Program & Training**.
 - ☐ I addressed **Shop Conditions**.
 - ☐ I addressed **Safety Record & Culture**.
 - ☐ I addressed **Operational Excellence**.
 - ☐ Supporting photographs and documentation are clear and relevant.
 - ☐ I have permission to submit the supporting materials provided.
 - ☐ I reviewed the nomination for accuracy and completeness.
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Ready to Nominate?

A strong nomination doesn't need elaborate language. It needs **clear examples and credible evidence** showing how the nominated shop makes safety and operational excellence part of its everyday work.

Submit your nomination through the official EDGE Awards Peer Nomination Form.