
EDGE Awards – Photo Standards

Help the Judges See Your Best Work

Strong photographs help judges understand your entry and evaluate the details that may not be fully captured in the written description. **Professional photography is not required.** Clear, well-lit and thoughtfully selected images are what matter most.

Your photos should accurately represent the work and give judges enough visual information to understand its quality, complexity and finished result.

What Your Photos Should Show

For **project-based entries**, include a combination of images that tell the complete story of the finished work:

- **Overall views** – Show the complete project and how the surfacing works within the surrounding space.
- **Detail views** – Highlight craftsmanship, seams, edges, transitions, radii, veining, fabrication details or other features you want judges to notice.
- **Technical details** – Show challenging fabrication or installation elements such as complex geometry, large spans, thermoforming, waterfall edges, integrated features or difficult material transitions when applicable.
- **Material use** – Include images that clearly demonstrate how the material was incorporated into the design and used to its advantage.
- **Finished result** – Provide clear images of the completed project that allow judges to evaluate overall fit, finish and execution.

Photo Quality

Photos do not need to be professionally produced, but they should allow judges to clearly evaluate the entry.

Do:

- Use clear, sharp, high-resolution images.
- Photograph the work in good, even lighting.
- Keep the project as the primary focus of the image.

- Include both overall and close-up views when appropriate.
- Check that colors and materials appear reasonably true to life.
- Select images that add useful information rather than multiple photographs showing essentially the same view.
- Review every image before submitting to make sure important details are visible.

Avoid:

- Blurry, dark, heavily shadowed or extremely overexposed photographs.
- Screenshots or low-resolution images when an original image is available.
- Excessive filters or editing that materially changes the appearance of the finished work.
- Distracting backgrounds, clutter or unrelated objects when they can reasonably be avoided.
- Images that rely heavily on text, graphics or promotional overlays.
- Multiple nearly identical photographs that don't provide judges with additional information.

Photos Should Document – Not Enhance – the Entry

Basic adjustments such as cropping, straightening and reasonable corrections to brightness or exposure are acceptable.

Photos should **not be digitally altered in a way that misrepresents the actual project, product, shop or workmanship being evaluated.**

I would include that rule because judges need to know they're evaluating the actual submitted work rather than an enhanced representation of it.

For Member Awards

Photos should help judges understand the nominee, company and contribution being recognized. Depending on the entry, useful images may include:

- The nominee or team in a professional or industry setting.
- Examples of relevant work, facilities or activities.
- Industry involvement, education, mentorship or community participation.

- Other images that provide meaningful context for the nomination.

Photos should support the nomination rather than simply serve as general company marketing.

For Shop Safety & Excellence

Because this award specifically evaluates safety programs, training practices, shop conditions and safety performance, photographs should provide meaningful visual evidence where appropriate.

Consider including images showing:

- Overall shop conditions and organization.
- Dust collection and silica-control practices.
- PPE and other safety measures.
- Equipment and work areas.
- Material handling and storage.
- Safety signage and designated areas.
- Employee training or documented safety practices.

Photos should represent **normal operating conditions**, not conditions created solely for the award submission.

For Product Innovation

Images should clearly demonstrate **what is new and why it matters to fabricators**.

Consider including:

- Clear images of the product, material, tool, machine or technology.
- Important features or design details.
- The product being used in a real-world application, where appropriate.
- Before-and-after or comparison images when they provide meaningful evidence.
- Images demonstrating the specific problem the innovation addresses.
- Supporting diagrams, test results or data when relevant and permitted as part of the submission.

The images and supporting materials should reinforce the entrant's explanation of the product's **originality, impact on the trade and practical value.**

Image Rights & Permission

Before submitting, entrants should confirm that they have the right to provide all submitted photographs and any necessary permission from the photographer, client, project owner or other applicable party.

By submitting images, entrants grant ISFA permission to use submitted photography in connection with the EDGE Awards and related awards communications and promotion, consistent with the program rules you've established.

Before You Upload

Ask yourself:

Can a judge who has never seen this work clearly understand what was accomplished and see the details that support my entry?

If not, consider adding or replacing photographs before submitting.