



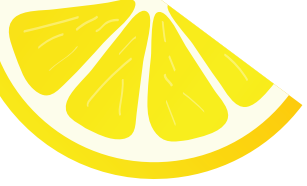
Printing & Imaging
Association of Georgia



2020 **PRINT**
2 **EXCELLENCE**
6 **COMPETITION**

**PRESS
REFRESH!**

***STREAMLINED CATEGORIES.
SIMPLIFIED PROCESS.
SAME PRINT EXCELLENCE.***



2026 ENTRY CATEGORIES

Printing Categories: A minimum of 75% of every entry must have been produced within Georgia by the participating company.

Finishing (R) & Design (S) Categories: A minimum of 75% of post-press production or design, respectively, for each entry must be completed within Georgia by submitting company. The printing itself may be outside of Georgia ONLY for these categories.

Presentation Folders/Portfolios

Presentation folders/portfolios with pockets. Entries submitted with inserts will be judged as a unit.

A-1 Presentation Folders/Portfolios

Publications

B-1 Brochures

Piece that is folded and is not stapled or bound.

B-2 Booklets/Books

Any number of pages, bound in any manner. Can be hard or soft cover. Can include program, annual report, catalog, and/or magazine.

B-3 Flyers

Single, unfolded sheet printed on one or two sides.

Calendars

Calendars designed to be posters may be entered in category C-1 and/or K-1.

C-1 Calendars

Cards & Invitations

D-1 Cards

Includes holiday cards, greeting cards, postcards, and blank notes.

D-2 Invitations

Environmentally Sound

E-1 Environmentally Sound *

Entries must use at least two of the following:

- Recycled papers
- Soy or vegetable-based inks
- Direct-to-plate
- Aqueous coating or energy-curable inks and coatings
- Other environmentally sound products not mentioned above

** Entries must include a brief description outlining the materials and techniques used for the entry.*

Fabric/Textile Printing

F-1 Fabric/Textile Printing

Includes screen printing and dye sublimation

Internal Communication Pieces

Publications produced exclusively for the internal communication needs of a single company or organization. For self-promotion, see category L-1.

G-1 Internal Communication Pieces

Marketing/Promotional Materials

A coordinated effort to promote a business, product, or service that may or may not use mail as a means of distribution. Entrant should have substantially printed all parts of the finished package. Please place all pieces for one entry into the same envelope.

H-1 Promotional Campaigns

Two or more companion pieces to promote a business, product, or service.

H-2 Direct Mail

H-3 Media Kits

A single package of promotional or informational materials packed into a folder or carrier for distribution. Must include more than one piece.

H-4 Single Promotional Piece

A piece used to promote a business, product, or service. It does not necessarily have to be mailed.

Packaging & Labels

I-1 Cartons, Containers, Boxes, and Totes

Includes single cartons and containers or an integrated series. Integrated series should be entered as a single unit with one entry fee.

I-2 Plastic Packaging

Produced on hard plastic substrates

I-3 Labels and Wraps

Includes single labels and wraps or an integrated series. It is strongly recommended that the entry submitted be adhered to the actual product. Integrated series should be entered as a single unit with one entry fee.

I-4 Miscellaneous/Other

Point-of-Purchase Materials

Includes any in-store promotional materials, such as hanging displays, take-1s, shelf displays, etc.

J-1 Point-of-Purchase Materials

Posters, Art Prints & Other Art Reproductions

Entries must be the actual poster or print. Do not send photographs or slides. If possible, ship entries flat. If you prefer to create a miniature of the project (from the same materials), please include details and pictures of the piece after installation so judges can fully understand the project.

K-1 Posters

Posters intended for use as promotion or decoration.

K-2 Fine Art Prints

Reproductions of fine art intended for use as decoration. No books or brochures.

Printer's Self Promotion

Entries may include more than one item if the material was mailed as a single unit or was part of a campaign. If the entry includes more than one item, please submit the entry in an envelope.

L-1 Printer's Self-Promotion



Stationery & Office Materials

Includes letterhead, business cards, and/or envelopes.

M-1 Stationery & Office Materials

Environmental Graphics

Extraordinarily large displays that are either not practical to ship or are of a “one and done” nature should be accompanied by photographs and/or video (less than three minutes in length), and/or written details (less than one typed page) that describes the project.

N-1 Floor or Window Graphics

N-2 Wallpaper

N-3 Sidewalk Graphics

N-4 Miscellaneous/Other

Wide/Large Format

If possible, please ship entries in a manner that does not compromise the piece. If the item is too large to ship flat, roll and package accordingly. Folding often damages the piece so that judges do not have an accurate sense of the piece.

Extraordinarily large displays that are either not practical to ship or are of a “one and done” nature should be accompanied by photographs and/or video (less than three minutes in length), and/or written details (less than one typed page) that describes the project.

O-1 Banners

O-2 Event/Tradeshow Display Stands

O-3 Vehicle Wraps

O-4 Signage

O-5 Miscellaneous/Other

They Said It Couldn't Be Done

This category is for printers who exceed limitations and expectations when tackling the numerous challenges faced on the toughest jobs.

P-1 They Said It Couldn't Be Done *

* Entries must include a brief description of the project, including challenges of the job and how they were overcome.

Miscellaneous Specialties

Q-1 Miscellaneous Specialties - Other *

Materials that do not fit the criteria for any other category. Pieces can include innovative technology, such as AI.

* Entries must include a brief description of the project and techniques used for the entry.

Post-Press & Embellishment Techniques

For categories R-1 through R-9, a minimum of 75% of **post-press** production for each entry must be completed by participating company. The printing itself may be outside of Georgia ONLY for these categories.

R-1 Foil Stamping

R-2 Digital Enhancement Printing

Enhancement must be digitally produced. The piece itself may be printed digitally or offset.

R-3 Embossing/Debossing

R-4 Die-Cuts & Pop-Ups

R-5 Specialty Inks or Coatings, Spot UV, Fragrances, or “Invisible” Printing Inks *

* Entries must include a brief description of the project, ink, and technique used to produce the entry.

R-6 Folding

Any piece which demonstrates the following characteristics: squareness, lineup consistency, lack of cracking and wrinkles, gussets, smudging, marking, and scuffing. Examples include gatefolds, miniature folding, map folding, special, unique, or difficult folds.

R-7 Binding

Includes adhesive binding (perfect binding, notch binding, Smythe-sewn glued covers, side wire stitched glued on covers), case binding (pages are arranged in signatures, sewn together and hard covers are attached), and mechanical binding (single or double wire, Plasticcoil and/or plastic binding).

R-8 Combination Finishing Techniques *

* Entries must include a brief description of the project and techniques used for the entry.

R-9 Other Special Finishing Techniques *

Includes gluing, hand work, or any other finishing technique not covered in the categories above.

* Entries must include a brief description of the project and techniques used for the entry.

Design

For categories S-1 through S-8, a minimum of 75% of **design** work for each entry must be completed by participating company. The printing itself may be outside of Georgia ONLY for these categories.

Pieces will be judged on architecture, design principles, design complexity, graphic design and overall design effectiveness.

S-1 Publications

Includes brochure, magazine, catalog, etc.

S-2 Direct Mail

S-3 Promotional

Includes announcements, invitations, apparel, etc.

S-4 Large Format & Environmental Graphics

Includes signage, banners, wallpaper, floor and window graphics, etc.

S-5 Campaigns

Must include more than one piece. Entrant should have substantially designed all parts of the finished package.

S-6 Packaging

S-7 Finishing

S-8 Miscellaneous/Other

Includes style guide, menus, etc.

DEADLINES

Early Bird - March 20

Regular - May 1

Samples Due to Office - May 1

Categories marked with an * require an accompanying description.
Applicable entries submitted without one will be disqualified.



RULES AND REGULATIONS

Eligibility

Any print manufacturing, finishing, or design facility located within Georgia may participate.

Finishing companies are eligible to enter pieces in category R.

Design companies are eligible to enter pieces in category S.

All other categories are printing categories.

A minimum of 75% of each entry must have been produced within Georgia by participating company.

Date of Production

Entries must have been produced between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025.

Entry Submission Process

Entries can be submitted using the enclosed entry form or via an online form at piag.org/pec.

One sample of each entry will need to be delivered to PIAG. Additional samples can be included if desired.

Companies may enter as many pieces as they wish in any eligible category.

PIAG reserves the right to re-categorize any entry if it is determined that the entry may be judged more fairly by being placed in a different category.

Entries may be returned after imPRESS, if requested. Participating company will be responsible for return shipping and handling costs.

Multiple Categories

A single piece may be entered into multiple categories. The first entry for the piece will be at full price with a discounted price for each additional category entered (see Fee Schedule).

Please include each category as its own entry. A separate sample should be provided for each category entered.

Labeling of Entries

Please place your entry form or a temporary label on each entry. Please do not use a permanent label, tape, paperclips, or staples as this can damage the entry.

Deliver Entries To:

PIAG
Attn: PEC
5020 Highlands Parkway
Smyrna, GA 30082

Divisions

Entries are divided by company size:

Division 1 (1 - 9 employees)*

Division 2 (10 - 25 employees)*

Division 3 (26 - 50 employees)*

Division 4 (51 or more employees)*

Division 5 (Schools)

**Divisions 1-4 are defined as the total number of employees located in Georgia.*

Fee Schedule & Deadlines

PIAG Member Rates

First **Two** Entries = Free

Early Bird (until 3/20) = \$35/entry

Regular (until 5/1) = \$45/entry

Multiple Categories = \$25/additional category

Schools = Free

Non Member Rates

Entries = \$95/entry

Multiple Categories = \$45/additional category

Payment can be submitted online or via check. Payment must be received prior to judging.

Samples must be received by May 1.

Judging & Notification

Entries are judged by impartial, out-of-state printing specialists.

Judging: Expected May 2026

Winners' Notification: June 2026*

imPRESS: August 2026

**Best of Show, Best of Division, and Top Gold award recipients will not be revealed until imPRESS.*

Criteria for Judging

Registration, Visual Impact, Illustration & Halftone Detail, Finishing, Richness & Tonal Qualities of Color, Degree of Difficulty, Paper & Ink Selection, and Ink Consistency

Award Levels

The following awards will be recognized:

Best of Show: The most outstanding entry in the competition, chosen from the Best of Division winners. Recipient receives a trophy at imPRESS and recognition in the Awards Annual with a photo of the winning piece

Best of Division: Awarded to one entry in each division that exceeds all others in overall quality, regardless of category. Recipients receive a trophy at imPRESS and recognition in the Awards Annual with a photo of the winning piece.

Top Gold: Special awards granted at the judges' discretion to recognize excellence in specific areas, regardless of division. Examples include Best Publication, Best Use of Color, Most Creative Use of Substrate, Best Finishing, or Best Design. Recipients receive a trophy at imPRESS and recognition in the Awards Annual with a photo of the winning piece.

Best of Category: Presented to the top entry in a given category within each division. Only one Best of Category may be awarded per category, per division. Recipients receive a personalized certificate.

Award of Excellence: Presented to entries that meet competition guidelines for quality within their division's category. Multiple Awards of Excellence may be given per category, per division. Recipients receive a personalized certificate.

Questions?

Contact Jennie Thomas at 770-433-3050 or jennie@piag.org.

