



# 2026 CONTRACTOR SAFETY AWARDS

Honoring industry firms that have implemented outstanding employee health and safety programs

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: July 31**

# CONTRACTOR SAFETY AWARDS

## Program Overview

The American Road & Transportation Builders Association—Transportation Development Foundation (ARTBA-TDF) Contractor Safety Awards were developed to recognize that preservation of the health and safety of our industry employees is our highest value.

The awards recognize those that have made outstanding accomplishments with their safety programs and publicize these success stories to inspire others to follow. The program is open to contractors engaged in the construction of roads, bridges, ports, tunnels and transit projects.

ARTBA-TDF recognizes the significant effort required by all levels of company management and employees to achieve and maintain a high level of safety performance. Those companies that consistently sustain excellent safety records have a story to tell that may help other contractors improve their programs.

**The ARTBA-TDF Contractor Safety Awards will be presented in conjunction with the ARTBA National Convention, Sept. 27-30 in Kohler, WI.**

**The application deadline is Friday, July 31.**

## Criteria

To ensure fair and even comparisons in judging, awards are categorized by number of employee hours worked during the previous year.

While traditional safety award programs are often judged on the OSHA/MSHA recordable rate as reported in the company's OSHA 300 log and MSHA reports, the ARTBA program also considers the company's insurance Experience Modification Rate (EMR) as well as additional elements as demonstrated in the company's safety policy and program.

To qualify, your company's OSHA Recordable Rate must be lower than the most recently published industry average, compiled by the Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) for the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code 2373—highway construction and bridge building. The benchmark is an OSHA Recordable Rate below 2.5. The current rate table is available on the [BLS website](#).

To calculate your Recordable Rate, take your company's number of OSHA recordable incidents, multiply by 200,000 (the mathematical constant used to represent 100 people working an average employee year); then divide that number by the total employee hours worked. (Number of OSHA Recordable cases) x 200,000, divided by (number of employee hours worked) = OSHA Recordable Rate

## Categories

There are three categories for the ARTBA Contractor Safety Awards based on hours worked by all company employees:

1. 1,000,001 or more employee hours
2. 500,001–1,000,000 employee hours
3. 500,000 or less employee hours

The top two companies in each category with the lowest Recordable Rate and EMR will advance to the final judging stage.

For companies with divisions that operate semi-autonomously from the corporate parent, an application may be independently submitted by that division. For example, a corporate organization may own companies that operate under separate names or as partnerships with another organization. Such operations may apply independent of the parent organization.

## Notifications

Top entrants will be notified of their advancement to the final award competition on or before Sept. 3, 2026. Finalists will be invited to make a presentation before a panel of judges and winners will be announced during the **ARTBA National Convention**. Details regarding the finalist presentation will be provided at the time of notification.

## Judging Criteria

The criteria for the awards are developed and reviewed regularly by ARTBA staff and select members of the ARTBA Safety Forum. ARTBA-TDF anticipates additional criteria will be added and updated in future years.

The final award recipients will be determined based upon their presentations to the judges. The judges will look for sound safety program elements, including:

- Management commitment
- Employee participation
- Incident investigation
- Audit procedures
- Safety planning
- Management review/implementation
- Risk assessment

**Companies that have won the Contractor Safety Award previously must wait one year before applying again.**

**All finalists' presentations will be open to attendees to ARTBA National Convention to view. (Competitors in the same size category, however, will not be allowed to view other's presentations.)**

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## Judging Procedure

No judge may have an interest or bias related to the submissions. If a judge should have such an interest, that judge will be excused from reviewing the applicable entry(ies) and an alternate will be appointed. Additional industry related personnel may be utilized as judges at the direction of ARTBA-TDF management staff. Award recipients will be chosen in the judges' sole discretion and mere qualification for entry does not guarantee receipt of any award.

## Publicity

ARTBA view the awards as an important way to promote worker safety across the country and will make substantial efforts to assure that the achievements recognized by this awards program receive maximum publicity.

In addition to posting all winners online, recipients of an award will be honored at a special awards luncheon during the ARTBA Annual Convention. The awards ceremony will be appropriate to explain the significance of the applicants' achievements and obtain maximum public relations visibility for the winners of the awards. Winners will be promoted through the ARTBA and National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse publications, websites and social media.

ARTBA will also issue a press release announcing the winners from each of the categories to industry journalists and news media.

## Disqualification

Nominees with a jobsite fatality resulting in an OSHA citation within the previous 12 months should not apply.

Any nominees who experience a workplace fatality after completing the application, but prior to final judging, must contact ARTBA and report the incident. Understandably, fatalities resulting in a citation will disqualify the nominee company.

## Entry Materials

Applications must be submitted online and include the following:

1. A completed online nomination form with your company's OSHA Recordable Rate;
2. A copy of your Workers' Compensation EMR summary for last three years;
3. A supporting document (no longer than two pages) that includes a description of your:
  - **Company:** include operations, number of full-time employees, years in business, type of work performed (i.e. highway, bridge, transit, tunnel, etc.).
  - **Safety program:** include information demonstrating management commitment and employee involvement in your orientation program, training program, and innovative practices that reduce exposures to loss.
  - **Achievements:** include your success and why your program deserves to win this national award.
4. Nomination Fee: \$300 ARTBA Members / \$450 Non-Members. The application fee may be paid by credit card using our online store, or checks can be made payable to ARTBA-TDF; please denote "Contractor Safety Awards" in the memo line of the check and mail to:

**Contractor Safety Awards Competition**  
**c/o Accounts Receivable**  
**ARTBA-TDF**  
**250 E St. S.W., Suite 900**  
**Washington, D.C. 20024**

ARTBA reserves the right to use portions of the submissions for promotional purposes. The submission of copyrighted material for the ARTBA Contractor Safety Awards shall constitute a general grant of permission to ARTBA to use the materials for promotional purposes.

Contact ARTBA's Brad Sant at 202.683.1008 or [bsant@artba.org](mailto:bsant@artba.org) for questions or additional information.