

SafetyInnovations

Application instructions

Application deadline Sept. 30, 2015

Step 1. Prepare to apply

Instructions

BWC invites all Ohio employers (private, public and self-insured) to share their innovations that have reduced safety, ergonomic and occupational health risks for their employees.

Innovations come in many forms: equipment, machinery, processes, procedures, adaptation and new creations.

Thoroughly read this document before you apply for the competition.

- Review Section I - Eligibility requirements
- Read Section II - Scoring criteria
- Understand your obligations in Section III - Agreement terms
- Follow the exact instructions in Section IV - Application instructions
- Thoroughly analyze Section V - Application questions. Gather the necessary information and construct your responses
- Read Section VI - Application submission
- Click the Step 2 button to begin your application.

I. Eligibility requirements

Ohio employers or organizations that have developed and/or implemented an effective, innovative solution to an occupational safety or health issue can submit an application.

- a. Must have an Ohio BWC policy number
- b. Maintain active coverage - not more than 40 days lapsed in the prior 12 months
- c. Be current on all monies owed BWC
- d. The innovation must have been placed into service between July 1, 2010, and June 30, 2014, and currently be in use.

- e. Previous BWC Safety Innovation Competition entries are not eligible. However, past applicants can submit applications for different innovations they have implemented.

II. Scoring criteria

Our Division of Safety & Hygiene will use the criteria below to select finalists to compete for cash awards.

- a. **Risk reduction:** The innovation should significantly reduce safety hazards (e.g., struck by hazards, pinch points, slip/trip/fall hazards, etc.), ergonomic risk factors (e.g., forceful exertions, repetitive motions, awkward postures) and/or chemical, thermal or noise exposure in a quantifiable manner.
- b. **Innovation:** The innovation should involve the implementation of a new/unique tool, piece of equipment, technology, process or methodology or a new/creative use or application of an existing approach or technology. In addition, the innovation should ideally make use of the creativity and knowledge of various team members and resources.
- c. **Cost savings:** The innovation should be cost effective and have a reasonable return on investment (ROI). The ROI should be documented by cost/benefit analysis or other ROI calculation(s) that quantifies savings from the reduction in injuries/illnesses and other operational costs (productivity, quality, absenteeism/turnover, etc.).
- d. **Potential impact:** The innovation should have a positive impact on as many people as possible and the business operations in general. Ideally, similar workplaces, industries or operations should be able to implement the innovation.
- e. **Presentation quality:** The problem and innovation should be clearly described, illustrated and quantified for all of the above items, so the judges and the viewing public at Ohio Safety Congress & Expo can easily understand the full impact and ancillary benefits.

III. Agreement terms

- a. By completing and submitting this application, employer agrees that BWC expressly reserves the right to unilaterally and without notice disqualify any employer from the competition. Disqualification will result in termination of BWC's obligations under this agreement.
- b. Employer also agrees to allow BWC to verify application information and use/publish all information. This includes, but is not limited to, data, descriptions, videos/photos and other specifications for the purposes of illustration, awareness and training. Information provided to BWC is also subject to public information requests.

IV. Application instructions

- a. You must submit your application online. We do not accept email, fax or paper applications.
- b. With the criteria in mind, organize the necessary information before you complete the application. You must respond to each question at the time of your application. You cannot save your work and return later. Your responses will not save until you click Submit on the final page of the application.
- c. All questions are mandatory, unless otherwise noted. We will not consider incomplete applications.
- d. Prepare your responses in Microsoft Word or another word processing software.
- e. When you are ready, copy/paste your responses to the appropriate fields on the application.
- f. Once you submit the application, you cannot edit it.
- g. Complete a separate application for each innovation you want considered.

V. Application questions

You must respond to the questions below. Make note of the number of characters accepted for each response.

Company contact information

Name

Work title

Company

BWC policy number

Address

Email

Phone

Number of employees at your work location
(select one: 1 to 9; 10 to 49; 50 to 249; 250 or more)

Business locations (select one: one location in Ohio; multiple locations in Ohio; multiple locations, some outside Ohio)

Innovation entry

1. Title of innovation entry (not to exceed 50 characters)

The problem/challenge

2. Describe the work operation or process that is the subject of this innovation (1,250 characters or less)
3. Describe the problem or challenge you addressed with the innovation, particularly the safety hazards, ergonomic risk factors, and/or exposures to chemical, thermal, or noise hazards (1,250 characters or less)
4. How many people were exposed to the associated risks? Include the duration and frequency of exposure. (255 characters or less)

The innovation

5. Describe the innovation and how it resolved your problem or challenge. (1,250 characters or less)
6. Describe how the innovation was developed (e.g., involvement of employees, testing, modifications, review, and approval). (1,250 characters or less)
7. When did you implement the innovation and how often do you use it? (255 characters or less)
8. List the various types of costs incurred to develop, build or purchase, and fully implement the innovation. (255 characters or less)



The results

9. How has the innovation reduced the hazards, exposures, and risk factors in the work operation or process? How did you determine this? (1,250 characters or less)
10. Describe any hazards, exposures and risk factors that the innovation created or increased. How did you control them? (1,250 characters or less)
11. How has the innovation reduced, eliminated or prevented injuries, illnesses, lost workdays, etc.? (1,250 characters or less)
12. Describe the impact of the innovation on other issues such as employee absenteeism, turnover, productivity, quality, customer service, morale, environmental compliance, etc. (1,250 characters or less)
13. Describe cost savings and/or return on investment you have realized or expect from this innovation. (255 characters or less)

Visual documentation (optional)

- You may provide photographs (preferred) or other visual documentation that depicts both the “before” and “after” situations surrounding your innovation. We will accept links to videos posted on the internet.
- You may submit a maximum of three files. Each file is limited to 10MB. You can have up to 20MB of attached files per application. You can attach most file types.
- Use the website fields to provide web site addresses.
- You may submit additional comments regarding visual documentation. (255 characters or less)

Additional information

14. How do you foresee this innovation being applicable or adaptable for use in similar or other operations, workplaces or industries? (255 characters or less)
15. Feel free to provide any additional information about the innovation. (255 characters or less)

VI. Application submission

- a. Allow at least 30 minutes to copy/paste your responses into the application. Once you begin your application, you cannot save your work and return later.
- b. Your application is not complete until you click Submit on the last page of the application. We will not consider incomplete applications.
- c. Once you submit the application, you cannot edit it.
- d. You will receive an email confirming our receipt of your application. Check your spam or junk email box if you do not receive a confirmation. If you don't receive an email, it could be an indication that you did not submit your application properly. Contact us if this occurs.
- e. We will notify semifinalists on Oct. 30, 2015.

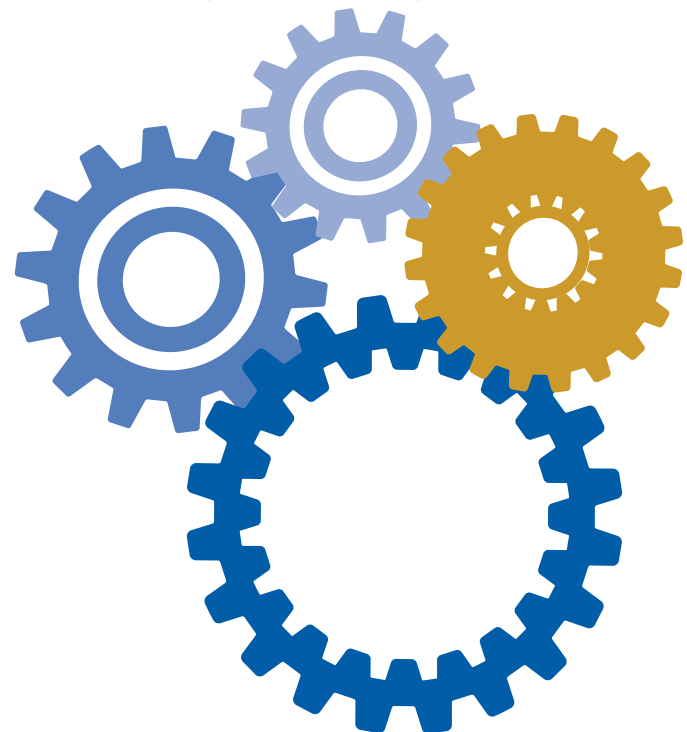
Step 2. Apply now

For more information

Email BWCSafetyInnovations@bwc.state.oh.us

Phone 800-644-6292 or 614-728-6447

www.bwc.ohio.gov, click on Safety Services



www.bwc.ohio.gov



Ohio | Bureau of Workers' Compensation