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CALL FOR ENTRIES

2025

EXCELLENCE IN FLEXOGRAPHY AWARDS

2024 BEST OF SHOW WINNERS

GET STARTED
Our NEW streamlined entry process makes it easier than ever before

flexography.org/excellence

2025 FTA EXCELLENCE IN

Printers have been trusting in FTA's Excellence in Flexography Awards, the industry's longest running and most prestigious annual print competition, to assist in gaining the accolades and recognition that their company deserves for quality and color consistency.

Competitors from around the world will submit their finest work to be evaluated by our esteemed panel of judges. Of the hundreds of entries submitted, those ranked the best among the best will gain global recognition and be featured in FLEXO Magazine, honored at the Awards Banquet during FORUM, displayed at the Awards Gallery at INFOFLEX, and highlighted on FTA's website, social media channels and in press releases.

Are you ready to prove to the world that you have pristine execution, unparalleled consistency and exceptional print quality? Submit your entry today.

FIRST 5 ENTRIES FREE FOR MEMBERS THAT JOINED IN 2024

ELIGIBILITY:

All flexographic printers/converters, print buyers, suppliers, designers and students worldwide are encouraged to participate. All entries must have the customer's (print buyer's) approval for entry. Each entry must have been flexographically printed (if only a portion is printed flexo, you need to identify what part is flexo and what is not on the Technical Data Form). Entries must have been produced for a production run of an actual market product. Tests, sample runs and mock-ups (with the exception of Student and Self-Promotion entries) are not eligible. All entries must have been produced between Jan. 1, 2024 and Dec. 31, 2024.

Entries with Digitally Printed Elements: At least 90 percent of the image MUST BE FLEXOGRAPHICALLY PRINTED. Only the flexo portion will be judged and awarded points.

Submitting on Behalf of Another Company: Supplier companies may submit entries on behalf of a printer or designer with their permission. **Note: Submitting on behalf of a non-member company will result in non-member pricing.**

Judges' Feedback: Due to the nature of the competition, judges are unable to provide feedback on each entry.

DEADLINE:

Entries must be received by Friday, Jan 17, 2025.

ENTRY CLASSIFICATIONS:

WIDE WEB: Entries produced on presses having a width greater than 40".

MID WEB: Entries produced on presses having a width greater than 26" up to and including 40".

NARROW WEB: Entries produced on presses having a width of 26" or less.

COMBINED CORRUGATED: Entries printed directly on sheetfed combined board (all flutes, combinations and liner weights).

PREPRINTED LINERBOARD: Entries printed directly on web-fed linerboard before being converted into corrugated board.

ENVELOPE: Entries printed on envelope equipment.

SELF-PROMOTION: Entries printed by companies in-house to promote printing capabilities (Limit 3 – only open to printers/converters).

STUDENT: Entries produced and printed by students enrolled in a recognized technical, vocational or graphic arts institution.

NON-TRADITIONAL FLEXO/EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES: Entries produced by means that utilize processes or substrates that fall outside of existing entry classifications and may include the utilization of new and emerging technologies and/or unique applications. Flexographic printing plates must be used as part of the reproduction process. Entries will be judged based on criteria specific and unique to the reproduction process implemented. A description as to why the entry fits into this category must be included.

FLEXOGRAPHY AWARDS

CATEGORIES:

PRIMARY PRINT CATEGORIES:

LINE: Printing consisting predominantly of solids and lines [can contain some screen or process elements (less than 10%), but will remain as a line item and will be judged accordingly].

SCREEN: Printing consisting predominantly of continuous tone screen tints, vignettes, halftones and duotones using any set of ink colors. Screen entries may also include line printing and/or process printing (less than 10%), but will remain as a screen item and be judged accordingly.

PROCESS: Printing consisting predominately of three or more colors in the reproduction of an image. The result appears as a "full color" image obtained by the overlapping of various size dots to simulate changes in density and hue of color that give the final appearance of a full color spectrum. Many of these entries may include line and screen elements. ALL PROCESS ENTRIES SHOULD INCLUDE A COLOR CONTRACT PROOF. Points are awarded for the inclusion of the contract proof (target) and the point amount is based upon the quality (closeness) of the match.

SUBSTRATE CATEGORIES:

FILM: Any film substrate that is not metallized

METALLIZED SUBSTRATE: Printing must be directly on the metallized surface of the substrate, otherwise, the entry should be submitted in film or paper.

COATED PAPER: Up to 0.012" thick.

UNCOATED PAPER: Up to 0.012" thick (which would include napkins).

PAPERBOARD: 0.009" or greater in thickness. This includes folding carton, liquid packaging and tags, etc.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

To be accepted for judging, your entry must include:

- An Entry Form, a Technical Data Form and all applicable entry fees
- Proper number of print samples
  - » Web printed samples, in roll form, must have 4 sequential, continuous full web width 360-degree revolutions of the print cylinder. Samples may be submitted in sheeted singles only if the roll form is not possible (example: for a 2 across/2 around job, 16 sheets need to be submitted). A statement MUST accompany the submission explaining why the roll form is not possible.
  - » Envelope, 4 finished
  - » Combined Corrugated and napkin entries must submit a minimum of 4 consecutive revolutions
- Entries with digitally printed elements: At least 90 percent of the image MUST be flexographically printed. Only the flexo portion will be judged and awarded points.

Important Note: If an entry fails to meet any of the above requirements, the ineligible entry will not be returned nor will the entry fee be refunded.

QUESTIONS?

Email awards@flexography.org or call Joe Tuccitto at +1-631-737-6020 ext. 147.

PRINT CATEGORY CODES

FIRST 5 ENTRIES FREE FOR MEMBERS THAT JOINED IN 2024

Carefully select the correct print category code for each entry.

WIDE WEB

A.1.a Line, Film

A.1.b Line, Metallized Substrate

A.1.c Line, Coated Paper

A.1.d Line, Uncoated Paper

A.1.e Line, Paperboard

A.2.a Screen, Film

A.2.b Screen, Metallized Substrate

A.2.c Screen, Coated Paper

A.2.d Screen, Uncoated Paper

A.2.e Screen, Paperboard

A.3.a Process, Film

A.3.b Process, Metallized Substrate

A.3.c Process, Coated Paper

A.3.d Process, Uncoated Paper

A.3.e Process, Paperboard

MID WEB

B.1.a Line, Film

B.1.b Line, Metallized Substrate

B.1.c Line, Coated Paper

B.1.d Line, Uncoated Paper

B.1.e Line, Paperboard

B.2.a Screen, Film

B.2.b Screen, Metallized Substrate

B.2.c Screen, Coated Paper

B.2.d Screen, Uncoated Paper

B.2.e Screen, Paperboard

B.3.a Process, Film

B.3.b Process, Metallized Substrate

B.3.c Process, Coated Paper

B.3.d Process, Uncoated Paper

B.3.e Process, Paperboard

NARROW WEB

C.1.a Line, Film

C.1.b Line, Metallized Substrate

C.1.c Line, Coated Paper

C.1.d Line, Uncoated Paper

C.1.e Line, Paperboard

C.2.a Screen, Film

C.2.b Screen, Metallized Substrate

C.2.c Screen, Coated Paper

C.2.d Screen, Uncoated Paper

C.2.e Screen, Paperboard

C.3.a Process, Film

C.3.b Process, Metallized Substrate

C.3.c Process, Coated Paper

C.3.d Process, Uncoated Paper

C.3.e Process, Paperboard

COMBINED CORRUGATED

D.1 Line

D.2 Screen

D.3 Process

PREPRINTED LINERBOARD

E.1 Line

E.2 Screen

E.3 Process

ENVELOPE

F.1.c Line, Coated Paper

F.1.d Line, Uncoated Paper

F.2.c Screen, Coated Paper

F.2.d Screen, Uncoated Paper

F.3.c Process, Coated Paper

F.3.d Process, Uncoated Paper

SELF-PROMOTION (PRINTERS/CONVERTERS ONLY)

G.1 Maximum of 3 entries

STUDENT

H.1.a High School

H.1.b Post-Secondary School

NON-TRADITIONAL

I.1 Non-Traditional Flexo

Enter online at flexography.org/excellence

AWARDS JUDGING GUIDELINES

"How do you know how good you are, until you actually compete?"

Bob Fiala, ProAmpac

Qualified teams of printers/converters will blind judge all entries for Degree of Difficulty and qualified teams of suppliers will do the same for Level of Execution. To aid the judges' ability in evaluating the entry, it is important that the Technical Data Form be completed with as much information as possible.

DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY (DD)

SUBSTRATE PRINTABILITY/INK COMPATIBILITY: Scores will be awarded based on the difficulty of successfully applying ink to the substrate. Judges will consider all aspects of the substrate in order to determine an exact DD score.

REGISTRATION TOLERANCES: If the design and graphics of the entry require extraordinarily close tolerances for all registration aspects, a DD score of 10 may be awarded. Less stringent registration requirements will be given appropriately lower scores. Registration requirements that are below average as a difficulty factor in printing the entry may be awarded a low point score.

PLATE/PRINTING COMPLEXITY: Higher scores will be awarded for multiple outs, multiple press passes, printing on both sides of the substrate and unusual or complicated web or substrate handling. Higher scores will also be awarded for a print from one plate with incompatible elements over a similar print where incompatible elements are divided into multiple plates of the same color. Incompatible elements are solids, reverses, tints, halftones, line art and type in various sizes and combinations printed the same color. Spot color simulation through the use of process colors will be considered more complex.

FINENESS OF PRINT AND/OR SCREEN: Exceedingly fine type, graphics and fine screen values (for screen and process) will be given appropriately high DD scores.

TONAL RANGE: A tonal range for screen and process from 1% to 100% dots will be given a DD score of 10. Commensurately lower DD scores will be awarded for narrower tonal ranges.

DEFECT DETECTABILITY: Design and graphics are such that print defects and imperfections are not easily or clearly seen. A "clean" design will warrant a higher score than more "busy" designs.

LEVEL OF EXECUTION (LE)

IMAGE SHARPNESS: Clarity, clean and sharp edges, fill-in, squeeze, excessive ink laydown, spots, hairs, hickeys, waviness and any other print attributes or defects will be evaluated.

INK COVERAGE: Solids and trap areas will be evaluated for smooth, complete, even pinhole and void-free ink laydown.

REGISTRATION: Copy straightness, alignment and precision of registration of all elements, including process vignettes (including copy to shape or die, as applicable).

DOT/SCREEN/VIGNETTE QUALITY: Screen and process areas for dot print quality, dot drop-off, bridging, moiré, missing dots and overall appearance of these areas. The entry will be compared to the target to determine the degree of target accomplishment.

CONSISTENCY: Consistency of all previously judged variables throughout the image and the submission of 4 revolutions of the cylinder.

Award Levels: At the discretion of the judges, a Gold, Silver and/or Bronze Award may be given in each subcategory within each classification. Additionally, a Best of Show may be awarded in the following classifications: Wide Web, Mid Web, Narrow Web, Combined Corrugated, Preprinted Linerboard and Envelope. The selection will be made from among the Gold Award winners.

The 2025 FTA Excellence in Flexography Awards winners will be announced and showcased during FORUM & INFOFLEX 2025 in Pittsburgh, PA, May 4 - 7.