



EXCELLENCE IN CONSTRUCTION 2026 APPLICATION CRITERIA

SHOW OFF YOUR BEST WORK

Associated Builders and Contractors New Hampshire/Vermont Chapter invites you to showcase your company's talent and dedication to quality, innovation, and safety by entering this year's Excellence in Construction (EIC) Awards Competition. An invaluable business development tool, the EIC Awards demonstrates your company's commitment to and achievement of the highest-quality standards. Judges from another ABC Chapter will determine the winners based on the information provided below. Winners will be celebrated at the Excellence in Construction Awards Gala on OCTOBER 29, 2026, at the DoubleTree by Hilton, Downtown Manchester, NH.

GENERAL INFORMATION

ELIGIBILITY

Any current ABC member of the NH/VT Chapter may enter their completed projects or Scope of Work that are physically located in the New England area and completed between January 1, 2024, and December 31, 2025. Questions concerning eligibility should be directed to the ABC NH/VT Chapter by calling 603-226-4789 or emailing to Info@ABCNHVT.org

PROJECT AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE OR MERIT

Project awards are exclusive for contractors and subcontractors. Both Excellence and Merit Awards may be presented in each project category. More than one of each award types may be awarded in each category. However, each member company may only enter ONE project per category.

AWARD CATEGORIES

- Design/Build
- Historical Restoration
- Industrial/Manufacturing
- Private Residence
- Commercial Project- under \$5M
- Commercial Project- \$5M - \$10M
- Commercial Project- over \$10M
- Institutional Project – under \$5M
- Institutional Project- \$5M - \$10M
- Institutional Project- over \$10M

CHAIRMAN'S AWARD

The Chairman's Award will be awarded to the "Best of the Best" of all eligible Excellence Award winners as determined by the Judges. Announcement of the Chairman's Award Winner will be made at the Excellence in Construction Awards Gala.

IMPORTANT DATES

August 7, 2026: Completed applications due by 4:00 pm

September 4, 2026: Winners will be notified.

October 29, 2026: Excellence in Construction Awards Gala

RECOGNITION OF WINNERS

All winners will be recognized at a gala presentation to be held on Thursday, October 29, 2026 beginning at 4:00 pm at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Downtown Manchester, NH. The awards ceremony will feature a multi-media presentation. Press releases will be distributed to media contacts and all winners will be highlighted in the ABC NH/VT Chapter magazine, *Construction Resource* and the *NH Business Review*. Additionally, awards winners will be recognized at every ABC NH/VT event during the year following the awards ceremony.

RULES OF ENTRY

1. Entries must be from a current member of ABC NH/VT Chapter.
2. Projects submitted must be in the New England area and completed between January 1, 2024, and December 31, 2025.
3. A non-refundable registration fee of \$425.00 is required for your first project entry. Contractors may enter more than one project for an additional fee of \$325.00 per additional project. There is a limit of three (3) submissions, per company, per year.
4. Each project may only be entered into one category.
5. Each ABC member may only enter ONE project per category.
6. A minimum of ten (10) and maximum of twenty (20) digital photos of the submitted project are required; video is optional. Pictures shall be embedded in the submitted PDF. Within five business days of receiving your application, you will receive an email with instructions for uploading higher resolution copies of your photos/videos for your submitted project to be used for award presentations and publicity.
7. Ten (10) photos of the submitted project are required to be uploaded to the application platform. Additional photos may be embedded in the narrative pdf, however, be sure they are NOT the same photos. If you choose to submit a video, please forward to ABC NH/VT President/CEO, Joshua Reap at josh@abcnhvt.org separately. Videos should be b-roll or other non-narrated clips.
8. A photography agreement must be signed if any of the submitted photos were done by a professional photographer. [Click Here.](#)
9. All accepted entries become the property of ABC NH/VT Chapter and may be used for publication or for any other purpose by the Association.
10. Entries may be disqualified if the application has missing information or if the rules are not adhered to. The judges reserve the right to re-categorize and/or disqualify any entry for cause with proper notification to the entrant.
11. All entries must be submitted no later than 4:00 pm on August 7, 2026.

SAFETY POLICY

A company that experienced a safety-related fatality of a direct employee in the United States within the current program year is NOT eligible for an Excellence in Construction Award. If a subsidiary is a direct ABC member versus part of a larger holding company member, then the subsidiary with the safety-related fatality is not eligible, but another subsidiary of the same holding company may be. Furthermore, all EIC award winners have a continuing duty to inform ABC of a safety-related fatality that occurred after the end of the current program year until the time of the awards program. Such a fatality will nullify the

EIC award. After the judging process and prior to the awards program, ABC will request that an award winner confirm that a safety-related fatality did not occur. Failure to respond to the request will also nullify the EIC award.

- A member that experienced a safety-related fatality of a direct employee in the United States within two or three years of the current program year is required to provide additional information regarding action that has been taken following the fatality.
- No project that involves prime, multi-prime, or sub-trade contractors with a safety-related fatality within the current program year is eligible to be considered for an award.

If there is a question regarding this policy and application requirement, contact ABC NH/VT President/CEO Joshua Reap at josh@abcnhvt.org.

CONSTRUCTION COALITION FOR A DRUG AND ALCOHOL-FREE WORKPLACE

All ABC NH/VT members applying to the Excellence in Construction competition must sign the Construction Coalition for a Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace Pledge at drugfreeconstruction.org in order to be eligible to compete.’

OSHA FORM 300 AND 300A

All ABC NH/VT members applying to the Excellence in Construction competition must include copies of the project specific OSHA Form 300 and OSHA Form 300A for your company. If project-specific forms are not available you may include completed forms for all the year(s) the project was under construction, include a year-to-date form if the contract was completed in the current program year. If you submit the annual forms, they must be specific to the office location that completed the work and all recordables specific to the project being submitted must be highlighted. All personal information must be redacted. If these forms are not submitted, this project is not eligible.

CREATING A SUCCESSFUL ENTRY

The scope defines the project. Be sure to include all the items outlined in the application. Use bullets to allow judges to easily learn about your project.

The narrative tells the story. Worth almost a third of the total point values, the narrative should be the highlight of the application. This is where applicants can brag about why a project is special. Obstacles that were overcome and explanations of extenuating circumstances should be communicated clearly and succinctly.

Safety is always the priority. Be sure to include the information requested in this section of the application but also take the opportunity to describe innovative safety programs that were utilized during the project.

Remember, because the judges are not able to visit your project site in person, your photographs are especially important to your entry’s success so you should include images that demonstrate progress (i.e., before and after).

Take advantage of all possible points! Participating in ABC’s Safety Management System (STEP) and achieving the Accredited Quality Contractor (AQC) credentials will also earn two additional points per program. Both programs include an application process, so be sure to get an early start.

JUDGING CRITERIA

OVERALL PRESENTATION AND CONFORMANCE TO ENTRY REQUIREMENTS – 5 POINTS

Each entry will be judged on overall presentation and conformance to entry requirements. Keep the following in mind:

- Uploaded documents should be pleasing to the eye and legible. Points will be deducted for a font that is not easy to read.
- Points will be deducted for grammatical errors, spelling mistakes, and other typographical errors.
- Be sure to utilize all allowable space to demonstrate why your project deserves an award.

CONTRACTED SCOPE – 10 POINTS

Ensuring legibility when selecting font design and size, provide a description (no more than one full page) of the scope for this project with the following information:

- Type of construction
- Type of contract (such as lump sum, time and materials, construction management at risk, cost plus, etc.)
- Size of project
- Contract value
- Duration of project
- Percentage of labor that was self-performed.
- **Any subcontracted work performed by ABC members, suppliers, and/or associates/industry professionals must be submitted in the provided excel spreadsheet and format. Other formats will not be accepted.**
- Opportunities you provided for the construction community to participate based on merit.

PROJECT NARRATIVE – 30 POINTS

Ensuring legibility when selecting font design and size, provide a written narrative (no more than four pages) indicating why this project is special and why it qualifies for an award. The focus of the narrative should be the construction (i.e., erection, installation, modification, grade footprint, etc.) of the project. Four pages are highly recommended, and photos may be incorporated. Be sure to include the following items:

- Describe any innovative programs relating to quality control.
- Describe any innovative programs relating to scheduling.
- Describe any value analysis/engineering process used on the project.
- Indicate any special obstacles you overcame in completing the project.
- Describe any difficulties or extenuating circumstances encountered in completing the project.
- Describe any innovative programs or methods relating to productivity.

PHOTOGRAPHS - 8 POINTS

Submit at least ten high-quality photographs of the project. It is recommended to include photos that are relevant to the challenges and solutions outlined in the narrative (but not the same as any photos embedded in the Narrative). To obtain maximum points, all projects should include “in progress” photos in addition to the completed project. Renovation and restoration projects should include before and after photos as well.

- Single image files may include up to two photos, but no more than four files should include split images.
- A poster will be created for each project submitted. Please indicate which three photos you would like to be used in your poster by putting **PQ** in the name of the photo.

PROJECT SAFETY

- Safety related fatalities
- OSHA Form 300
- OSHA Form 300A
- Construction for a Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace Pledge
- Safety Policy
- Safety Orientation
- Other safety questions

REFERENCES

Include up to ten letters of recommendation from third parties involved with the project, such as the owner and design team. If the owner is unable to provide a letter of recommendation due to company policy, upload a letter from the owner on their letterhead stating they are unable to provide a reference (this letter will qualify for only five points.) Letters will be assessed for their level of quality, content, and position of the author.

- **General Contractors** must submit letters from at least the owner (or the general contractor's prime contracting entity, if not the owner) and the architect. If submitting in an industrial category, general contractors must submit letters from at least the owner (or the general contractor's prime contracting entity.)
- **Specialty Contractors** must submit a letter from at least the general contractor. If not collaborating with a general contractor, special contractors must submit a letter from at least the owner. Second and third-tier subcontractors must at least submit a letter from their prime contracting entity.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS – 2 POINTS

Provide any miscellaneous supporting materials, such as diagrams and other graphics, media coverage, other awards, and promotions, aerial or drone footage, BIM, 3D scans, and/or CAD drawings.

AQC – 2 POINTS (OPTIONAL)

If your company is designated as an ABC Accredited Quality Contractor (AQC) member in the current program year, upload a copy of the company certificate. The certificate must indicate the chapter that you are submitting your project through since AQC membership is chapter specific. If necessary, a copy of the certificate may be requested by emailing AQC@abc.org.

Note: AQC status is NOT required to submit for an Excellence in Construction award.

STEP SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM – 2 POINTS

If your company is a STEP participant, upload a copy of the company certificate from this year. If your company does not have an electronic copy of your STEP certificate, contact ABC NH/VT.

Note: STEP participation is NOT required to submit for an Excellence in Construction award.

If you have any questions about any portion of the application process, please contact ABC NH/VT at 603-226-4789 or Info@abcnhvt.org.