

49th Annual



Deadline: July 10, 2026

ELIGIBILITY

The TLMI Annual Awards Competition celebrates excellence in technical achievement across all narrow-web printing and converting technologies. Only TLMI converter members are eligible to participate. Entries must be produced between **July 2025 and July 2026**.

AWARDS

Category Awards

- **First Place** awards will be presented in each category.
- **Second Place** awards may be given at the judges' discretion.

Best in Class Awards

Ten **Best in Class** awards will be presented for the most outstanding label in each of the following categories:

- **Wine & Spirits** – Includes neck labels
- **Beverages** – Alcoholic
- **Beverages- Non-Alcoholic**
- **Food**
- **Household & UTC**
- **Personal Care & Cosmetics**
- **Wellness, Pharmaceuticals & Nutraceuticals**
- **Industrial & Automotive**
- **Promotional & Extended Content** – Includes self-promotion
- **Innovation, Single Application, Linerless & Sustainability**

Best in Show

One **Best in Show** award will be selected from the ten Best in Class winners.

L9 World Label Awards

Selections from the ten Best in Class winners, along with selected North American First Place winners, will advance to the **International World Label Awards**. These entries will compete alongside winners from JFLP, FINAT, LATMA, SALMA, LMAI, PEIAC, ABIEA, and AMETIQ. If selected, winners may purchase their award from WLA at their own expense.

RECOGNITION OF WINNERS

Winning entries will be showcased and announced at the **2026 TLMI Annual Meeting**.

- First place winners will be recognized by name during the awards ceremony.
- Each Best in Class and Best in Show winner will be announced in their own featured video presentation.
- The video will be available for promotional use by the winning companies.
- TLMI will publish winners on its website, social media, and featured in industry trade publications.

RULES & DEADLINES

- All labels must be eligible for promotion to the TLMI membership and external campaigns. This will include but not be limited to photos and videos.
- Entries are accepted in good faith. TLMI is not responsible for unqualified submissions and reserves the right to withdraw awards for rule violations.
- All entries become the property of TLMI, Inc. Winning entries will be retained for display; non-winning entries will be disposed of after judging.
- Each company may submit **up to three entries per category**, with no limit on the number of categories entered. If more than three entries are submitted in a category, judges may reclassify or eliminate excess entries.

Submission Deadline: July 10, 2026

Entry Instructions

Complete the **online entry form** and send a **minimum of 25 samples** to:

TLMI Awards

c/o Jessica Avery

450 Rev Kelly M Smith Way

Nashville, TN 37203

Samples are essential for evaluating complexity, quality, consistency, and craftsmanship.

To aid in gathering information for online submissions, a printable pdf of the online form is included for your use. TLMI will not enter this information on your behalf. The online form has been updated for ease of use. [Click here to download.](#)

SAMPLE INFORMATION

- **Roll-to-roll entries** must be submitted in continuous form.
- **Carton and in-mold entries** should include individual samples and a roll of at least 25 uncut labels.
- **Shrink sleeve entries** must be submitted prior to sleeving/seaming.
- **Digitally printed entries** should include a production run of continuous repeats.
- If multiple labels are grouped in the same run, clearly identify the label to be judged.
- Submit only one set of continuous labels, even with multiple copy changes. Judges will evaluate all copies, and inconsistent quality may affect scoring.

COMPLETING THE ENTRY FORM

Include the following information:

- **Category Selection** – Choose the appropriate market vertical (e.g., Wine & Spirits, Beverages, Food, etc.).
- **Primary Printing Method** – Options include digital, flexography, gravure, offset, rotary screen, and multi-process.
- **Process Used** – Choose from line, line and screen, or color process.

Definitions:

Line

- **Use:** Black-and-white graphics with less than 10% gradation or shading
- **Image Type:** High contrast images, like logos, text, pen-and-ink drawings
- **How it works:** Prints solid areas of ink with no dots or halftone patterns.
- **Example:** Barcodes, bold line art, black logo

Line and Screen

- **Use:** Images with shading or tone, but not full-color process photos. Must have at least 10% or more screen tone.
- **Image Type:** Black and white photos, grayscale images, or single-color designs with gradients
- **How it works:** Uses dots of varying sizes (halftones) to create the illusion of shading or gradients
- **Example:** T-shirt designs with a single-color portrait or artwork with 2-3 flat colors

Process Printing (Printing of three or more colors to build process image)

- **Use:** Full-color images, photographs, complex illustrations
- **Image Type:** Anything with a full range of colors
- **Example:** Magazines, product packaging, brochures, or photo-quality prints

Secondary Converting / Offline Processing – Includes lamination, foiling, varnishing, doming, embossing, die-cutting, and stripping.

Multi-Process Definition

A combination of two or more printing processes, including decorative methods such as hot stamping, rotary screen tactile, and embossing. Includes digital hybrid presses where digital is combined with other print and decorative features. Note: Flexo tactile, flexo cold foil, ion deposition, laser printing, and consecutive numbering are **not** considered multi-process. Whether the multiple processes are completed in one or several passes, judging for those processes will not affect the printing complexity score. All processes must have been performed by submitting converter.

- Entries with hot stamping, rotary screen tactile, or embossing submitted in a printing category will be **automatically reclassified** as Multi-Process. If a company has already submitted three entries in that category, the reclassified entry will be disqualified.

INFORMATION FOR THE JUDGES

- **Entry Name** – Provide a unique, descriptive name. Name as provided will appear on any award.

- **End-Use Description** – Explain the label’s intended use (industry, product type, placement). This assists with understanding unique applications.
- **Production Description** – Briefly describe the production process, including:
 - Special challenges overcome
 - Unique or innovative methods used
 - Whether the entry fulfilled a special need
 - Concept origin (converter or customer)
 - Use of multiple screens
 - Complexity due to color sequence
 - Use of UV or specialty coatings

Consider submitting final product samples to help judges evaluate the label in context. Best in Class Winners will be asked to submit product samples for use in the recognition videos.

IF YOU ARE A WINNER

If your entry wins an award, you will be asked to complete an additional survey so we can accurately prepare your award recognition and celebrate your supplier partners. Please note the following supplier companies for your entry for ease of survey completion.

Press

Finishing Equipment

Plates

Screens

Cylinders

Anilox Rolls

Dies

Substrates

Inks

Coatings

Adhesives

Mounting Tape

Other