

2021 General Awards – Rules

SOCMA's Performance Improvement Award recognition program focuses on organization improvements in the past year in the five Core Principles in SOCMA's Environmental, Health, Safety and Security Program – ChemStewards. With that in mind, focus your application entries on describing programmatic performance improvement, not overall compliance program elements.

General Rules

- To be eligible for the Gold, Silver or Bronze awards you must be an actively engaged SOCMA member currently in good standing with ChemStewards® or participate in an accepted alternative or equivalent performance improvement program. If you have any questions on your alternative or equivalency to ChemStewards® contact a member of the ChemStewards® staff.
- To receive a Gold Award, your facility must be a ChemStewards Tier III facility.
- Society of Chemical Manufactures and Affiliates (SOCMA) Performance Improvement Awards are based on an individual facility's achievement and improvement.
- Applicants must answer all general questions and award-based questions to be eligible to receive an award.
- SOCMA is only accepting applications submitted via this online format. No other print applications will be accepted.
- The ENTIRE application must be filled out in order to be judged in either the Gold, Silver or Bronze category. If a section is not relevant, please put "N/A".
- Application does not guarantee an award.

When completing your application, either:



1. *Complete it in one session.*
 2. *Save your work and email Tammy Netherland at TNetherland@socma.org to receive a link that will allow you to return to your application.*
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Criteria	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Tier Level	Tier III	Tier II or Tier III	Tier I or Tier II
CS Core Principles	Must excel in 5 core principles	Must excel in at least 1 core principle	Must excel in at least 1 core principle
Number of Awards	Awarded to only 1 or 2 companies	Awarded to 2 winners for each core principle	Awarded to 3 winners for each core principle
CS Engagement	Must be actively engaged i.e. attending SOCMA events, engaging in committee discussions and participates in planned activities.		
Metrics Submissions	On-time submission of metrics and other ChemStewards requirements		
Zero Fatalities	A facility that has any work-related fatality in the last 36 months will be disqualified from receiving an award.		
Regulatory Violation	A facility that has major, willful, repeat violation and/or pending investigation in the last 12 months will be disqualified from receiving an award.		

Disqualification

The following items are grounds for disqualification and should be reviewed with the SOCMA team prior to application submission. If you do not communicate with SOCMA prior to application submission, you will be automatically disqualified.

- Fatality at the facility during the past three years.
- Major regulatory violation including entering into a consent agreement and/or potential violation that is in the discussion/negotiation phase.
- Environmental event that adversely impacted a member (non-employee) of the community (Examples: Hospitalization, insurance claim, lawsuit, evacuation, etc.)
- Any use of your company name, identifier, reference to company location, or personnel names in text responses throughout the application – Sections 1-6.
- Note: Minor regulatory violations will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and may be cause for disqualification.

Judging

- All applications will be judged in a blind-blind process. The judges will not know who the applicants are.
- The judging committee will be formed by the SOCMA staff and kept confidential; however, they will be recognized once the judging process is complete.
- The members of the judging committee will not be allowed to submit an application.

Important Dates

- 2021 Awards will capture facility activities during the timeframe of June 2020 – May 2021 and metrics or agency data for the year 2019 – 2020.
- Members will not be able to access the application after midnight of the application deadline of **July 02, 2021**.

Hints/Other Notes

- **NEW:** In an effort to focus on performance improvement and not general requirements, we will be limiting word counts. Be concise and focus your answers on program improvements only.
- Double check that all identifying company information (company name, identifier, reference to company location, or personnel names) has been removed from Sections 1-6 prior to submitting the application.
- Avoid re-using identical information in multiple fields.



If you are unable to complete your application in one session, save your work and email Tammy Netherland at TNetherland@socma.org to receive a link that will allow you to return to your application.

[Download and preview the Performance Improvement Awards Application Questions.](#)