

Thermoforming Institute's 27th Annual Spring Conference
INDUSTRY IN TRANSITION

Thermoforming Institute
National Award (TINA)
Competition Guidelines

March 9 - 12, 2008
The Ritz-Carlton
Lake Las Vegas, NV



Sponsored by the Thermoforming Institute (www.thermoforminginstitute.org)
A Business Unit of the Society of the Plastics Industry, Inc.

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Overview

SPI's Thermoforming Institute (Ti) is proud to announce that applications are now available for its annual design competition - the Thermoforming Institute National Awards (TINA). **For the second year, custom thermoformers who are NOT members of SPI or the Ti are invited and encouraged to submit entries.**

The TINA competition is held in conjunction with the Thermoforming Institute's 27th Annual Spring Conference, March 9 - 12, 2008 in Lake Las Vegas, Nevada. Conference attendees will have the opportunity to vote on the entries.

The TINA competition is an opportunity to:

- Recognize the excellence of the thermoforming industry and to promote the thermoforming process
- Showcase thermoformed products promoting new developments, applications and technologies
- Recognize and promote superior manufacturing quality, innovation and use of materials in thermoformed parts

Competition Categories

There are two categories for entries, with one thin gauge and one heavy gauge award in each category. Judging will be focused on several critical aspects - Process, Design, Materials and Tooling. More details are available on the TINA Entry Form and Product Data Sheet.

Best in Innovation

This award highlights creativity and a progression in the state-of-the art of the thermoforming process.

What Determines Innovation?

Innovation displays creativity, introduces something new, and represents a progression in state-of-the art. Additionally, innovation represents change and uniqueness.

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NOTE: Participants are encouraged to enter multiples products in each category.

Best in Application

This award highlights creative problem solving by showing a product that successfully met the customer's/product's needs. Entries will be judged on creatively and successfully fulfilling the **application and end use** of the product.

What Determines Application?

Application is problem solving, applying information to produce a result, or the use of facts, rules, and principles in new situations. Application should showcase how relevant new techniques were used to produce a product for improved utilization.

Special Award -- Best in Show

This award will go to the entry, thin or heavy gauge that receives the highest number of votes from all entries in both categories combined.

Who Judges the Competition?

Attendees at the Ti's 27th Annual Spring Conference will vote on the competition entries.

What Criteria Are Used?

Entries are judged on innovation in unique and creative application of process, design, tooling, materials, finishing and markets. The overall implementation of the entry, including aesthetic effect and manufacturing quality, is factored into the judging. As the state-of-the-art progresses, the quality of the part should not be sacrificed, so improvements in the part are judged in light of today's quality standards.

The judging criteria will include technical mastery, surface finish, distinct quality, market viability (compared to other processes), originality, material difficulty, mold complexity, and secondary operations.

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Guidelines for the Competition

1. The competition is open to custom thermoformers, including non-SPI members.
2. Qualifications for product entry:
 - Must be a custom product or part
 - Must be a production item; prototypes are ineligible
3. Each entry requires a separately completed entry form accompanied by payment of the appropriate entry fee.
4. Since winning entries may be publicized in trade journals, submission of entry constitutes agreement for such publicity and guarantees that necessary approvals have been received from the customers or other interested parties.
5. Products may be hand-carried or shipped to the Ti 27th Annual Spring Conference location. Unpacking, set-up and reshipping will be the responsibility of the entering company. If a representative is not present at the meeting to arrange handling, the entering company must include appropriate instructions with both the entry form and product shipment, and agree to pay any labor and shipping charges incurred and billed back.
6. Please send the completed entry form with fee to arrive by **Monday, March 3, 2008** to:
Ms. Jill Brandts, Director
Thermoforming Institute
The Society of the Plastics Industry, Inc.
2151 Michelson Drive, Suite 240
Irvine, CA 92612 Phone: (949) 261 - 6979 Fax: (949) 261 - 6959
7. Please send a .jpg file with each entry for the PowerPoint presentation and awards ceremony. Send the picture to ktan@plasticsindustry.org.
8. A copy of each entry form must accompany each part shipped or carried to the competition. If a representative will not be present, a photograph of the set-up product should also be included.
9. Ship entries prepaid to arrive no earlier than **Wednesday, March 5, 2008**:
Guest Name
SPI Thermoforming Institute Conference
The Ritz-Carlton, Lake Las Vegas
1610 Lake Las Vegas Parkway
Henderson, NV 89011
Deliveries should arrive within 5 days of the event. There is a \$5 surcharge per box. For deliveries directly to the meeting room, DO NOT put "Guest Name" on the label.

Call SPI at (949) 261 - 6979 if you have any questions.