



International Association for
Food Protection®

Black Pearl Award

The Black Pearl Award recognizes a company for its outstanding commitment to, and achievement in, corporate excellence in food safety and quality. The award showcases the black pearl. **F&H Food Equipment Company** is the sponsor of this award.

Qualifications for nominees

- Be a corporate or related entity currently involved in or with the food industry
- Must have employees with active membership with IAFP
- Self-nominations are encouraged
- *Previous recipients of the Black Pearl Award are eligible to reapply five years after receiving this Award.
- Nomination packets for **recent** Black Pearl Award recipients are available for viewing. (Contact Susan Smith at ssmith@foodprotection.org to request.)

**Previous recipients include related entities (defined as follows) and entities that have merged, been acquired or renamed and are related to, or are the same as an entity previously receiving the Black Pearl Award.*

*A **Related Entity** means any Parent or Subsidiary of the Company and any business, corporation, partnership, Limited Liability Company (LLC), or other entity in which the Company or a Parent or a Subsidiary of the Company holds a substantial ownership interest, either directly or indirectly.*

Criteria for nominations

The nomination package **must** include the following requirements at the **front** of the packet (*in this order with tabs*):

- Completed Black Pearl Award Nomination Form
- A statement by a corporate officer of commitment to principles of food safety and sanitation (not to exceed 350 words)
- An executive summary (700-1,400 words) with a focus on the best food safety practices of the company for publication in *Food Protection Trends* (award recipient only to be published)
- Maximum three letters of support:* two must be from current IAFP Members. NOTE: IAFP Members are individuals; companies are not considered IAFP Members.
**Nomination letter and letters of support cannot be from a current IAFP Board Member.*

Other criteria to include (*in this order with tabs*):

- Evidence of support for the goals and objectives of IAFP
- Examples of products and/or services demonstrating a commitment to food safety
- Evidence of community and/or consumer relations to promote food safety
- Evidence showing promotion of ethical and fair business practices including employee relations, consumer relations, organizational operations and competitive interactions
- Evidence that facilities are designed with food safety and sanitation as a primary concern
- Examples of contributions to public health principles and food safety
- Evidence of adherence to food safety regulatory requirements
- Examples of food safety education activities, including employee programs to promote food safety (include how data is accumulated, put to use, and end results)

Additional points to consider under the criteria for evaluation of a nominee

Include supporting materials on:

- Food safety education activities involving employees, consumers and/or community efforts
- Approaches to employee training
- Approaches to assurance of product safety and/or quality research
- Contributions to food safety and/or quality research
- Demonstration of company's contribution to the goals and objectives of IAFP
- Regulatory compliance activity
- Ethical standards in competitive interactions
- Photos or a video presentation may be included
- Website information may be referenced

Submitting nominations

Supporting documentation covering the above criteria should be submitted with a nomination letter, letters of support, and completed Black Pearl Award Nomination Form. Instructions for the number of copies required, submission address and deadline can be found on the Black Pearl Award Nomination Form. Submissions are due in the IAFP office by **Tuesday, February 13, 2024**. Electronic submissions will also be accepted.

IAFP Black Pearl Award Judging Form

Name of company		
Criteria evaluated	Points Earned	Maximum Points
Statement by corporate officer of commitment to principles of food safety and sanitation		10 points
Executive Summary		10 points
Three letters maximum of support – two from IAFP members (non-Board Members)		5 points
Evidence of support for the goals and objectives of IAFP		10 points
Examples of products and/or services demonstrating a commitment to food safety		10 points
Evidence of community and/or consumer relations to promote food safety		10 points
Evidence showing promotion of ethical and fair business practices including employee relations, organizations operations and competitive interactions		10 points
Evidence that facilities are designed with food safety and sanitation as a primary concern		10 points
Examples of contributions to public health principles and food safety		10 points
Evidence of adherence to food safety regulatory requirements		10 points
Examples of food safety education activities, including employee programs to promote food safety (include how data is accumulated, put to use, and end results)		20 points
Total Criteria Points		115 Possible
Supporting materials		
Food safety education activities involving employees, consumers and/or community efforts		5 points
Approaches to employee training		5 points
Approaches to assurance of product safety and/or quality research		5 points
Contributions to food safety and/or quality research		5 points
Supporting materials demonstrating contribution to the goals and objectives of IAFP		5 points
Regulatory compliance activity		5 points
Ethical standards in competitive interactions		5 points
Total Supporting Materials Points		35 Possible
Total Points (Criteria Points + Supporting Materials)		150 points maximum