

Excellence in Construction: Frequently Asked Questions:

1) When are the project submissions due?

- Intent to Compete submissions are due July 31st. Project Submissions are due September 4th with winners being notified September 30th. This will give winning projects plenty of time to submit their Intent to Compete for the ABC National competition (More information [HERE](#)).

2) Who are the Pelican Chapter judges?

- Our judges are made up of leaders from partner associations and organizations in the industry, safety professionals, and professors and department heads from local universities.

3) Where can I find the application and other EIC documents?

- All 2020 EIC documents and information is located on our website: abcpelican.org/eic

4) Who can help determine which category is the best fit for the project?

- Pelican staff will not be able to advise you in this selection as they will need to stay biased in project specifics. However, we encourage you to make the best selection based off YOUR project's value and contract. Feel free to consult the EIC National category listing at abc.org/EIC for guidance. This can also be found on pages 9 and 10 of your application packet.

5) If my project's category is moved, will I be notified?

- Yes, you will be notified before we make the change from one category to another. We do so to allow your project to be better qualified for the competition but if you so choose to remain in the category we will allow.

6) When is a good time to visit the site and alert the Project Manager?

- As early as possible. We suggest you do this before deciding that this is the project you will be submitting. That way you can address any obstacles with the PM before moving forward. It will be easier for you, to visit the site throughout the project and take pictures, gather references, etc rather than waiting until the project is completed and being up against the deadline.

7) When is a good time to start collecting reference letters?

- We suggest planting the seed as early as possible. It can be hard to request reference letters from owners/project heads after they have already moved on to another project. By letting them know you are submitting this project for a local (and possibly national award) they can start drafting their thoughts early on.

8) Getting 10 reference letters is a challenge. Do we really need all 10?

- As the application states, you CAN submit up to 10 reference letters, but this is not required. In many cases, 3 or 4 will suffice and sometimes 1 will be enough. The judges are looking for quality over quantity. They will be able to tell when a letter is a canned/templated without any personal accolades for the contractor company.

9) Who is the point of contact for STEP and AQC?

- Kacie Blanchard (kblanchard@abcpelican.com) will be able to assist you in applying for and in acquiring your STEP certificate.
- AQC information can be found [HERE](#) or contact aqc@abc.org

10) What is the deadline for project completion to be eligible for a 2020 award entry?

- The project must be completed within the current program year: October 16, 2019 – October 15, 2020.

11) Does a project need to be 100% complete before submitting?

- The project does NOT need to be completed by the time the Intent to Compete is submitted on July 31st. However, if it appears the project will not be complete by the time of submission (September 4) then you will be allowed to swap out the project.

12) What is OpenWater?

- OpenWater is the submission portal for your EIC project. ABC Pelican uses the same portal as ABC National. So if you win at the chapter level and choose to submit nationally, you will use the same system. The project submission is broken into Phase I (Intent-to-Compete) and Phase II (Project Submission). For a step by step guide to using OpenWater click [HERE](#).

13) Do I need to create different account in OpenWater for each project?

- This will vary company to company. We suggest if you have one main contact that will be handling multiple submission for one company you keep them under one account. However, if you have multiple divisions with different contacts per submission it would be best to upload them under different accounts. Your account will remain the same if you choose to apply nationally as well.

14) Is a project with a recordable eligible to win an Award of Excellence?

- Yes. Any recordable incidents are entered in the safety section and will be auto calculated based off your Total Recordable Incident Rate (TRIR) and OSHA logs.

15) Do we need a professional photographer?

- No! Many of our projects have won at the Excellence level with pictures used from their iPhones! If you do have the ability to use a professional photographer to have them capture large scale/wide lens/visually appealing images it does help to make your projects graphics stand out in the mind of the judges and works well for marketing purposes. But it is not a requirement and will not determine a winning score. (If you do use a professional, be sure to have them sign the required waiver [HERE](#)).
- If you do not use a professional photographer, please remember to take landscape (holding your phone/camera horizontal) image. These look and print the best!

We are happy to help answer any questions throughout the submittal process. Please direct all questions to Lindsey Russ at lruss@abcpelican.com or (225) 753-2497