

Supplier Decorating

Supplier Decorating categories celebrate the outstanding craftsmanship, successful delivery and creative service of branded merchandise suppliers. This area of the competition is open to PPAI Member Suppliers for submissions.

Supplier Decorating Submission Requirements

- All entries must be regular catalog items provided for sale between April 1, 2025 and April 1, 2026.
- Proof of sale, PO, and catalog page **MUST** be submitted and uploaded with each entry.
- Speculative samples or random sample stock are ineligible.
- Write-up **MUST** include an explanation of the development and/or production of the entry including details on:
 - Manufacturing, printing, or specific special processes used achieve a specific look/feel
 - Equipment and material(s) used
 - Degree of difficulty involved in the design
 - Functional aspect and creativity
- Copies of letters, electronic communications, screenshots, and other supporting collateral should be uploaded at time of submission.
- Photos and site images must meet provided guidelines and be uploaded at time of submission.

Supplier Decorating Categories

Casting/Molding

Multi-dimensional decoration utilizing a carved or poured mold and die to achieve fine detail and copy.

Combination of Processes

A combination of decorating methods combined that deliver a different decoration method not achieved with a single process that creates a distinctive, dimensional appearance. **MUST** specify equipment utilized and processes used in submission.

Customized Non-Catalog Product

Development of a completely custom product generated as a result of end-client need. Submissions **MUST** include specific application/decoration process and client sale price (Not including set up charges).

Sub-Categories of Competition Include:

- Product \$1 to \$25
- Product \$26 to \$100
- Product \$101 and Up

Embroidery

Single or multi-color decoration in a single design as determined by total stitch count. **MUST** specify equipment used and total stitch count on entry.

Etching/Engraving/Laser

Decoration via one of these three technologies applied to metal, crystal, glass, wood, or other surfaces. The method **MUST** be specified on entry.

Large Format Printing

Decoration on large substrates such as banners, table runners, booth graphics and signage. **MUST** specify equipment utilized and processes used in submission.

Mascot/Character Product

Custom development of three-dimensional (3D) product. **MUST** specify equipment utilized and processes used in submission.

Metal Striking

Traditional decorating method using dies and pressure to achieve fine detail and copy in metal. **MUST** specify equipment utilized and processes used in submission.

Print On Hard Surfaces

Single or Multi-color print on hard surfaces such as plastic, metal, PVC, or other hard substrates utilizing screen print, digital print, pad printing or sublimation methods. **MUST** specify equipment utilized and processes used in submission.

Print On Textiles

Single or Multi-color print on soft woven, knit, or non-woven textiles utilizing screen print, digital print or sublimation methods. **MUST** specify equipment utilized and processes used in submission.

Special Applications/Processes

Use of a decoration method not otherwise categorized. Submissions in this category can include but are not limited to: laser applications, doming, bar codes, QR codes, watermarks or variable data, embossing, de-bossing, foil stamping, offset print, weaving, flexography, letterpress, or holograms. **MUST** specify equipment utilized and processes used in submission.

Supplier/Distribution Collaboration

The product must be designed from an idea, or concept developed as a result of distributor opportunity.

All entries require a letter from a distributor to confirm the creative information provided, the client need and results. Detailed explanation **MUST** be provided.

*Both supplier and distributor **MUST** be PPAI members in good standing.