

Instructions for AWRF Applicants

If your company desires to apply for membership in Associated Wire Rope Fabricators, we ask you first to read, understand and accept in advance our Purposes of the Association, our Code of Ethics, our Antitrust Policy and the other conditions that are printed on the Application Form.

With the exception of new REGULAR members, new members and rejoining members must pay an administrative fee (\$250) and the annual dues appropriate for the applicant. The one-time fee is required only at the time of application. The dues are paid at the time of application, and again each year during the dues collection period (typically December 1st through January 15th). New members are certified each quarter during the Board of Directors meetings.

New regular members must pay a one-time administrative fee of \$ 495 only (no additional dues) for the year they join the association. Regular dues will be billed for the next full year of membership.

Our annual dues vary, as determined by the "Gross Annual Sales" in U.S. dollars of the total corporate entity of the joining company. This refers to total sales, not merely the sales within the industry, and is predicated upon the presumption that entities with larger sales volume are better able to bear a larger share of the administrative costs of the association. The dues table at the bottom of this instruction sheet lists the applicable dues for various "Gross Annual Sales" volumes. Choose the dues amount applicable for your total corporate sales.

All AWRF business is conducted through a single designated contact person at each member company address. All mailings are sent to this contact person who also has the right to vote on behalf of the member. We can send additional mailings to other persons at other locations if the company is doing business under the same name at another address, and desires to have additional mailings. This is known as a "Branch Member" mailing. The cost is \$220 per year additional dues. The designated contact person must first pay the member dues before requesting to have a branch mailing. Determine the amount to send in by adding the application fee to the appropriate dues amount, if applicable. New REGULAR members pay \$ 495 only. Make your check or money order payable to: "Associated Wire Rope Fabricators" P.O. 748, Walled Lake, MI 48390-0748.

Complete the Application Form and sign it. Send the completed form, together with your check, your company's evidence of Products Liability Insurance and company literature (product catalogs, brochures, etc.) to association headquarters:

AWRF, P.O. 748, Walled Lake, MI 48390-0748

Dues amounts in US\$ applicable to total corporate sales:

Gross Annual Sales less than \$1 million = \$550

Gross Annual Sales \$1 million to \$3 million = \$825

Gross Annual Sales \$3 million to \$6 million = \$1155

Gross Annual Sales \$6 million to \$10 million = \$1375

Gross Annual Sales \$10 million or more = \$1980

Affiliate Membership = \$330 at any time

Branch Membership = \$220 at any time

Applications submitted prior to July 1st should include dues for the full year. Applications submitted between July 1 and September 30th should include 1/2 of the annual dues. Applications submitted after September 30th will be considered for the upcoming year and should include the full annual dues amount.

Please read and understand our:

Purposes

- To promote interests common among companies manufacturing, fabricating, or distributing lifting, rigging and load securement devices, and other integral components of wire rope, chain and synthetic products
- To establish, acquire, preserve and disseminate technical information within the industry
- To encourage the development of safety standards for manufacturing, fabricating and distributing of lifting, rigging and load securement devices, including promotion of suggested safety programs and procedures applicable to the industry
- To establish product identification procedures directly related to the industry
- To assist in establishing and maintaining adequate products liability insurance, as well as other insurance needs for the industry
- To consider and deal with common problems of the industry, such as those involving production, distribution and service functions of industry members and to advance by all lawful means the common purposes of the industry
- To suggest, promote and distribute safety programs, procedures and materials applicable to the members' workplace

Code of Ethics

The members of Associated Wire Rope Fabricators (AWRF) recognize a responsibility to promote ethical business practices within the industry. In pursuit of that goal, the Association hereby adopts the following principles and guidelines:

- To dedicate ourselves to individual agreements with customers and suppliers
- To create an atmosphere of trust in which our companies and our customers can thrive
- To generally understand and observe all phases of the law dealing with business practices of international and domestic exchanges, including proper identification and marking of all products
- To avoid deceptive or unlawful statements, promises or testimonials which may mislead customers or the general public
- To resist all efforts to prohibit the free exchange of ideas and information, other than those subjects prohibited by the antitrust laws
- To conduct ourselves in a professional manner at all times and to represent AWRF, our industry and our companies to the best of our ability

Antitrust Policy

The policy set forth below constitutes the collective attitude of AWRF, including its members of all categories, sponsors and staff, regarding the federal and state antitrust laws. Since a trade association is, by nature, a group of competitors with the capacity for collusive activities, which can result in restraint of trade, it is the intent of AWRF to act in strict compliance with all state and federal antitrust laws. The two principal antitrust laws, which are particularly applicable to trade associations, are Sections One and Two of the Sherman Act and Section Five of the Federal Trade Commission Act. These acts respectively prohibit contracts, combinations and conspiracies in restraint of trade; monopolies and attempts to monopolize; unfair methods of competition; and unfair or deceptive business practices. Because it is often difficult to determine whether an association has bordered on a violation of the antitrust laws, AWRF has established certain principles, which may be expanded or modified as new law develops. These principles are as follows:

- Membership shall not be denied to any qualified entity
- There shall be no discrimination in space allocation at product information exhibits
- Group boycotts and price fixing, express or implied, are per se violations of the law. Collusive behavior regarding freight allowances, discounts and warranties is also prohibited by the antitrust laws. Price fixing may involve combinations of competitors or suppliers and their customers with respect to resale price. AWRF will not tolerate any discussion of agreements or arrangements which expressly or inferentially address price fixing or any other subjects which violate the antitrust laws
- AWRF has adopted a clear policy which precludes the establishment of standards
- Any statistical reporting shall have as its purpose the provision of information to the industry and to the public. This purpose shall be expressed as the information is disseminated. Participation shall be voluntary. Only past transactions shall be reported and they shall always be in composite form
- Any concerns regarding AWRF policies or procedures should be discussed with staff, counsel, officers and directors
- The results of Association research projects shall be made available to the industry and to the public
- Members of AWRF shall at all times enjoy the freedom to make independent decisions in matters involving competition
- Members of AWRF shall familiarize themselves with basic federal and state antitrust laws, including the Sherman Act, Clayton Act, FTC Act and Robinson-Patman Act

Associated Wire Rope Fabricators Application Form

(PLEASE TYPE ALL INFORMATION ON THIS FORM)

COMPANY NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CONTACT: _____ TITLE: _____

PHONE: _____ FAX: _____

WEBSITE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

By signing this form we acknowledge that we fully understand the Associated Wire Rope Fabricators is incorporated as a non-profit trade association of companies primarily concerned with the lifting, rigging and load securement industry, and...

We also understand that the common goals of the AWRF are the establishment of the highest possible standards of quality, craftsmanship, and dependable service, and we will support these goals as well as the published Purposes and the Code of Ethics of AWRF, the Antitrust Policy and all other policies, as well as the By-laws and regulations determined by the association's directors, and...

We understand that at the time of this application, and every year thereafter at the time of the annual dues collection, we will furnish proof to the association in the form of a letter or certificate showing we are maintaining the required Products Liability Insurance. Product liability insurance carriers for Regular, Manufacturing, Non-Manufacturing and Sponsor Members must have an office in North America. Manufacturing, Non-Manufacturing and Sponsor members that are self-insured must have umbrella insurance coverage by a company with a North American office. Minimum coverage is to be one (1) million U.S. Dollars, and ...

We understand acceptance of our application requires sponsorship by three current members of AWRF by way of a written letter of recommendation, and that no qualified candidate will be denied membership arbitrarily. If we are granted membership, we understand that all classes of members are extended identical rights and privileges except that Retired Individual Members, Affiliate Members and Branch Members do not have the right to vote nor can they hold a seat on the Board of Directors. A group of members all owned, or affiliated under the same owning entity, can occupy only one seat at a time on the Board of Directors, a policy intended to inhibit domination of the Board of Directors by any one company or group.

Understanding all of the above statements, we have completed and signed this Form requesting membership in the Associated Wire Rope Fabricators.

SIGNATURE / DATE

The Board of Directors has sole discretion in determining the appropriate class of membership for all companies. To assist the Board of Directors, please check the category below that most closely describes your business.

Regular Member

This category includes Fabricators, Dealers, and Retailers whose primary customers are Consumers or End-Users of the products or services used in our industry. Typically this member will have a swaging machine and certified pull test equipment and be described as a "Rigging Shop"..

Manufacturing Member

This category includes Manufacturers and/or Fabricators whose primary customers are the Fabricators, Dealers, and Retailers described as "Regular Member" above. A Manufacturing Member must have a North American office, staffed by either direct employee or personnel under contract to the company. The office must be established for a minimum of one year prior to Membership approval.

Non-Manufacturing Member

This category includes any entity whose primary business is wholesale distribution (and not manufacturing or fabrication) of the industry's products, whose primary customer base is the retailer or distributor of the industry's products. A Non-Manufacturing Member must have a North American office, staffed by either direct employee or personnel under contract to the company. The office must be established for a minimum of one year prior to Membership approval.

Sponsor Member

This category includes any business entity whose primary business is wholesaling, retailing, or otherwise dealing in the products of the industry, but not in any way manufacturing and/or fabricating those products or any entity interested in the industry and not described in the three categories above. A sponsor member must have a North American office staffed by either direct employees or personnel under contract to the company. The office must be established for a minimum of one year prior to Membership approval.

Affiliate Member

Any entity who is a division of, affiliated with or owned by a member in any of the above categories. Affiliate Members do not have voting rights and individuals may not serve on the Board of Directors. Affiliated Members are listed in the AWRF Directory. Please list the affiliated company that is already a member.

Branch Member

Any entity who is a division of, affiliated with or owned by a member in any of the above categories, generally with the same name as the head office. Branch Members do not have voting rights and individuals may not serve on the Board of Directors. Branch Members are NOT listed in the AWRF directory, but they receive all association mailings. Please list the parent of the company already a member.

Please provide us with a brief description below of the nature of the company business, markets served, number of employees, etc. This information will be valuable in attaining formal approval by the Directors on the membership application. You may include additional pages if required.

AWRF Membership Applicant Sponsors

Name of applicant company _____

To be elected as a member of the Associated Wire Rope Fabricators, it is necessary that three AWRF member companies provide a written Letter of Recommendation to the Board of Directors of the Associated Wire Rope Fabricators and act as sponsors for the applicant. The three existing members may submit their letters to the address below or via e-mail. The Letters of Recommendation should contain the reasons why the applicant would be a qualified candidate for membership.

It is the applicant's responsibility to have their sponsors submit the letters of recommendation in a timely manner. The application will not be acted upon until all three letters are received at the AWRF office.

Please enter the names of three sponsors who are existing members of AWRF, and who will be submitting letters of recommendation (Not required for Affiliate Memberships, Branch Memberships, or Retired Individual Members):

[1]

[2]

[3]

Submit this list with the completed application form, the application or administrative fee, dues (if applicable), insurance verification and company literature to:

Associated Wire Rope Fabricators
P. O. Box 748
Walled Lake, MI 48390-0748
AWRF@ATT.NET