Associated Wire Rope Fabricators
Membership Application Form

DATE: _____

COMPANY NAME: _____

STREET
ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____

ZIP or
POSTAL CODE: _____ COUNTRY: _____

OFFICE PHONE: _____ OTHER PHONE: _____

CONTACT NAME: _____ EMAIL: _____

WEBSITE: _____ # OF YEARS IN BUSINESS: _____

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.

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.

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 and additional location 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 Members**

This category includes Manufacturers and/or Fabricators whose primary customers are the Fabricators, Dealers, and Retailers described as “Regular Member” above.

☐ **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.

☐ **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.

AWRF Accreditation Program for all Membership Categories

The AWRF Accreditation Program is an exciting, new, and completely voluntary opportunity for all member companies and their affiliated branches. Using the current revision of our AWRF RP&G “Recommended Practice for the Operation of Sling Shops” as a basis for evaluation, LEEA (our third-party auditing partner), will work with interested member companies to ensure adherence to the AWRF RP&G.

☐ Yes, my Rigging Shop is interested

☐ No, my Rigging Shop is not interested at this time

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.

About Our Company:

Application Instructions and Antitrust Statement

To apply for membership in the 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, all 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 and applicable fees are paid at the time of application. Membership is paid yearly, invoiced in January, to be paid by the month of February. Dues not collected by February, membership is subject to termination. New members are certified each quarter during the Board of Directors meetings which are: (January, April, July and October).

New Regular members 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. Check the dues amount applicable for your total corporate sales.

All AWRF business is conducted through a single designated contact person at each member company. All communications and mailings are sent to this contact person who also has the right to vote on behalf of the member. Additional mailings to personnel at other company locations are allowed. Payment can be made by check payable to: "Associated Wire Rope Fabricators", by ACH / bank transfer and credit card. Processing fees apply.

☐ Payment by check enclosed ☐ Send an invoice to pay by credit card.

Complete the Application Form and sign it. Return the completed form, method of payment and company literature (product catalogs, brochures, etc.) to association headquarters: CAREN@AWRF.ORG **OR AWRF P.O. 748, Walled Lake, MI 48390-0748**

Check the Dues amounts in US$ applicable to total corporate sales:

Gross Annual Sales less than $1 million = $700 ☐

Gross Annual Sales $1 million to $3 million = $1,100 ☐

Gross Annual Sales $3 million to $6 million = $1,500 ☐

Gross Annual Sales $6 million to $10 million = $2,000 ☐

Gross Annual Sales $10 million to $20 million = $2,500 ☐

Gross Annual Sales $20 million to $50 million = $3,000 ☐

Gross Annual Sales $50 million to $100 million = $4,000 ☐

Gross Annual Sales greater than$100 million = $5,000 ☐

Applications submitted PRIOR to September 15th should include the total current FULL YEAR dues as well as appropriate administration fees with application. These will be reviewed at the next Board meeting after the application is received.

Applications submitted AFTER September 15th should include the next calendar year's FULL YEAR dues as well as appropriate administration fees with the application. These would be reviewed by the Board for approval at the January Board meeting for the next calendar year.

Prior Members of AWRF

Rejoining Members:

1. For a previous member who left the association, with no outstanding balances other than dues, with less than two (2) years missed, wanting to rejoin the association:
    a. Will be required to pay for the unpaid years (calendar years) missed (up to two (2) years) full membership dues to become approved for reinstatement by the Board.

2. For a previous member who left the association with more than a two-year gap, wanting to rejoin the association:
    a. Will be required to reapply for Board approval
    b. Required to pay the $250.00 administrative fee - this is nonrefundable
    c. Required to pay the current year total dues at the time of application – this is refundable, less any credit card processing fees, if the application is not approved for membership by the Board.

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

☐ I have read, understand and will follow the AWRF Antitrust Policy

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Purposes and Code of Ethics

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

☐ I have read, understand and will follow the AWRF Purposes and Code of Ethics Statement

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____