



GUIDELINES TO APPLICANTS FOR THE DRÄGER SAFETY PACIFIC AWARD PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR YOUNG HYGIENISTS

1. DESCRIPTION

The Dräger Award is an award of the Australian Institute of Occupational Hygienists, sponsored on an annual basis by Dräger Safety Pacific Australia. The award provides a selected applicant with the opportunity for professional development through attendance at the British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS) conference or if necessary, a similar occupational hygiene conference supplemented with travel, pre or post-Conference to Dräger, Luebeck. The award will not be made if, in the opinion of the AIOH Council, applicants do not meet the standard required. If the award is made, the successful applicant will be notified in writing by the President of the Institute and he/she will be presented with an inscribed memento at the AIOH Annual Conference Dinner.

The recipient of the Dräger Award will eventually represent both the Institute and Australia at the highest levels of the profession in both the USA and Germany or any other country. Both the sponsor and the Institute seek a recipient who is mature in outlook, intelligent, articulate and personable, with sufficient awareness of developments in occupational hygiene in Australia to discuss them intelligently with hygienists from other nations.

NB: The financial aspects of this award are limited and the successful applicant may need to supplement it to achieve the level of travel or fees payable. Details are available from the AIOH

2. ELIGIBILITY

Full and Provisional members of the AIOH who are in good standing and are under the age of 40 are eligible to apply for the award provided that he/she is not a member of the AIOH Awards and Sponsorships Committee, an employee of Dräger Australia, or a relative of an employee of Dräger Australia.

3. PREPARING YOUR APPLICATION

The attached Application Form asks you to supply information, with supporting documentation if necessary, relating to:

- your personal details
- your academic qualifications and postgraduate training
- your work history and experience in occupational hygiene (including your involvement in Institute affairs)
- the work which is at the heart of your application for the Dräger Award
- the benefits which you expect to flow, to both your professional development and to the profession as a whole, from your attendance at the Conference and post-Conference travel.



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- You must supply seven copies of the Application Form and seven copies of supporting documentation and reports. Please do not send originals or theses as these supporting documents will not be returned.

It is unlikely that you are personally acquainted with members of the Awards and Sponsorships Subcommittee. Since personal interviews are out of the question in a country the size of Australia, your enthusiasm, commitment and competence as a practising occupational hygienist will be judged almost exclusively on the information you provide in your application. Study the Selection Criteria carefully and use the notes provided below to help you present your case for selection to best advantage.

3.1 Work History and Experience in Occupational Hygiene

3.1.1. **Work History**

Give your work history in chronological order from present day to earlier times. Supplement (in a separate statement, if necessary) job titles with sufficient descriptive material to enable assessment of the level of responsibility of your position(s) and the extent to which your work is or was occupational hygiene in a truly professional sense. Be factual, bearing in mind that you will be asked to name professional referees and that references may be checked before a final decision is made.

3.1.2 **Your Future in Occupational Hygiene**

Both the Sponsor and AIOH want the Sponsor's investment to provide maximum professional development to the recipient of the Dräger award. Both are naturally keen to see the recipient remain in the field for a length of time sufficient to fully utilise the knowledge and experience gained from the award. Under this heading you should provide an indication of your aspirations with respect to career development and of your commitment to the field. It would help the assessors to form a rounded picture of you as a professional if you could also comment on those occupational hygiene activities which you find particularly interesting and satisfying, on those areas of the field where you believe that you have a particular contribution to make and on your self-perceived professional strengths and weaknesses. Since the contents of your application will be held in the strictest confidence, you should not hesitate to express your opinions freely.

3.1.3 **Publications and Presentations**

With respect to the work on gas/vapour detection or respiratory protection which is at the heart of your application, you have to convince the assessors that:

- it is likely to result in a significant contribution to the protection of worker health (or that it has already done so)
- it is work of quality, both in content and presentation
- it is highly innovative
- if multi-authored, your contribution has been a major one.



You may present additional evidence of your professional competence, in the form of publications/presentations other than that on which your application is based, but please be aware that *quality* is valued far more than *quantity*.

3.2 Your Itinerary

This will be determined to a very large extent by the venue selected by the organisers of the Conference you have chosen. **It is subject to approval by the AIOH Council and the Sponsor. You should be able to negotiate rest breaks of up to two days in total. Travel or stop-overs additional to this will not be considered. Committee members or previous award winners are usually very willing to discuss these aspects with enthusiastic applicants prior to submission of your application so feel free to contact them.**

As a representative of your country overseas, you are likely to be asked questions about the geography, topography, people, climate, animals etc... of Australia. You will find the Pocket Australian Yearbook a useful source of information and an interesting read!

4. SELECTION CRITERIA AND THE SELECTION PROCESS

4.1 Selection Criteria

Your application will be assessed in terms of the following criteria and you should frame it in such a way as will maximise its impact in these terms:

With respect to the principal work on which your application is based:

- the significance of the contribution it makes to the field of occupational hygiene in areas for example such as gas/vapour detection or respiratory protection
- the quality of the work performed
- the quality of its description and presentation
- degree of innovation it exhibits
- the part played by the applicant in the performance of the work and the presentation of results.

With respect to your professional development:

- the part played by the applicant in the performance of the work and the presentation of results.
- your current professional standing in the field of occupational hygiene
- your involvement in the practice of occupational hygiene
- your perceived enthusiasm for, and commitment to, the field; potential for development



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- perceived benefit to the applicant's career of attendance at the conference of choice and of the post-conference travel

4.2 The Selection Process

Copies of your application, including supporting documentation and reports/papers, will be sent to members of the Awards and Presentations Committee. Individual members will independently assess each application in terms of the selection criteria, both absolutely and in relation to the other applications submitted. The assessments of individual members of the Committee will be forwarded to the Chair for collation, standardisation and tabulation. The result of this process will be sent to each Committee member in the form of a table and subsequently discussed in one or more telephone conferences until a consensus is reached. ***The applications and supporting documentation received remain the property of the AIOH, the working papers of the Committee, and any records of discussions and decisions will be held in confidence by the Committee, AIOH Administrator and AIOH Council and are usually destroyed at the completion of the annual selection and presentation cycle for the Award.*** The names of the first and second choices of the Committee will be forwarded to the AIOH Council for consideration and, hopefully, ratification. The successful applicant will be notified in writing by the President, AIOH.

Please note that the decision by Council is final and no correspondence concerning a decision will be entertained.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES TO THE AWARD

5.1 The Institute

- seeks nominations
- provides written guidelines to applicants
- arranges for the assessment of the applications
- notifies the successful applicant
- negotiates with the successful applicant with respect to an itinerary and confirms the arrangements with the Sponsor
- arranges for a presentation at the Annual Conference Dinner of the AIOH.

5.2 The Sponsor

- arranges and pays for travel, conference registration and accommodation
- provides a reasonable cost-of-living allowance in connection with the applicant's attendance at the Conference of choice
- presents the award and provides a suitably inscribed memento



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5.3 The Successful Applicant Must:

- arrange leave-of-absence with his/her employer
- obtain a passport and any necessary visas
- arrange such insurance as may be directed by the Sponsor and the AIOH Council, with an insurer acceptable to both these bodies
- signs and indemnity for the AIOH and Dräger Australia.
- negotiate with the Sponsor and the AIOH Council with respect to an itinerary
- prior to travel, submit for publication in the AIOH Newsletter a synopsis of the work on which the successful application was based
- WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF RETURNING TO AUSTRALIA, submit to the Institute and the Sponsor a written report on the professional aspects of his/her attendance at conference and visit to Dräger.(This Report, or abstracts of it, may also be published in the AIOH Newsletter).
- at all times for the duration of the Award, conduct himself/herself in a manner befitting a professional occupational hygienist and a representative of AIOH and of Australia.