



110 Centerview Drive
Post Office Box 11329
Columbia, SC 29211-1329
Phone: (803) 896-4300

**South Carolina
Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation**



Henry D. McMaster
Governor

Emily H. Farr
Director

April 9, 2026

Dear South Carolina Employer:

The 2026 LLR Safety Awards season has now begun. The Agency hopes your company will be able to celebrate its safety accomplishments with the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation this year. The Safety Awards Program is the Agency's way of rewarding you for the success of your safety and health programs. Last year, 22 employers were recognized. The Agency believes all employers - whether large or small, private or public - should be rewarded for the success of their safety and health programs.

Please take a few minutes to complete the enclosed application by entering the requested data. Applications are due by **11:59 p.m. on May 8, 2026**. The Safety Awards application can also be accessed and printed from the Agency website [here](#), or the SC OSHA website [here](#).

Safety Awards will be presented in three categories for either private or public sector:

	<u>Private sector</u>	<u>Public Sector</u>
Palmetto Shining Star	- No fatalities or recordable injuries or illnesses during calendar year 2025; - A reduction of at least 40 percent in an employer's incidence rate between 2024 and 2025; - A difference of at least 75 percent in an employer's 2025 incidence rate and the 2024 South Carolina average rate for that industry; OR - Worked one million or more safe work hours without a lost-time injury or illness in 2025	- No fatalities or recordables during calendar year 2025 (TC = 0); - A reduction of at least 20 percent in an employer's incidence rate between 2024 and 2025; OR - A difference of at least 50 percent in an employer's 2025 incidence rate and the 2024 South Carolina average rate for the applicable State or Local government NAICS
Rising Star	A difference of at least 75 percent in an employer's 2025 incidence rate and the 2024 <u><i>national</i></u> average rate for that industry	A difference of at least 50 percent in an employer's 2025 incidence rate and the 2024 <u><i>national</i></u> average rate for the applicable State or Local government NAICS
Gleaming Star	Fewer than 100 employees and demonstrates a culture of safety and health both on site and in the community	Fewer than 100 employees and demonstrates a culture of safety and health both on site and in the community

In June 2026, the Agency will announce the Safety Award Recipients. Companies that are selected will be contacted using the information provided on the application. Award Recipients will be publicly recognized.

The Agency appreciates your participation in the Safety Awards Program and your commitment to employee safety in the great State of South Carolina. This program is one of many ways the Agency fulfills its mission to promote the health, safety and economic well-being of the public through regulation, licensing, enforcement, training and education.

If you have any questions or need assistance completing the application, please call 803-896-9695, or send an email to Division.Labor@llr.sc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Baker', written over a horizontal line.

Kristina L. Baker, Deputy Director of Labor