



BDA Participation Guidelines

I. Intellectual Property

1. Product Design Entries: Participants in the Product Design category must be the designer(s) or rightful owner(s) of the submitted product (entry), i.e., the holders of the related intellectual property rights (IPR). Participants must ensure that the submitted entry is free of any intellectual property disputes with third parties (including disputes that have not yet occurred or those that have been properly resolved). Participants in the Design for Industry category are not required to submit proof of intellectual property ownership, but may do so voluntarily if relevant documentation is available.

2. Pending Intellectual Property Applications: For entries undergoing intellectual property registration or filing but without official certificates yet, participants must submit supporting documents during the registration phase. If the relevant IPR certificate is still not obtained after winning an award, the Better Design Award Organizing Committee (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”) reserves the right to require the participant to provide a written guarantee. During the application process, participants must download the *BDA Intellectual Property Declaration* from the official website, fill it in completely, sign and stamp it, and upload the scanned copy to the application system.

3. Duplicate Submissions: Designers or IPR holders of a product (entry) may not submit the same work multiple times. To avoid duplicate



submissions, participants must confirm participation rights with all involved parties prior to registration. In case of duplicate submissions, any dispute regarding awards or prize ownership must be resolved solely by the participants involved. The Committee assumes no legal responsibility. If no consensus is reached within the timeframe specified by the Committee, the Committee reserves the right to disqualify the entry and revoke any associated honors or prizes that have been awarded.

4. Liability for Intellectual Property Disputes: If any intellectual property defects or disputes arise from the entry and result in reputational or financial loss to the organizer, the Committee, or other involved parties, the organizer and Committee reserve the right to demand compensation from the responsible participant(s). Compensation may include, but is not limited to, direct and indirect financial losses, reputational damage, litigation/arbitration costs, legal fees, preservation fees, and appraisal costs.

5. Ownership Requirements: In principle, the intellectual property rights of all entries must be fully owned by the participant. If a participant only holds partial ownership of the intellectual property, they must submit written consent from all other rights holders, permitting the entry to be submitted to the competition. This consent must be provided in the form of the *BDA Intellectual Property Declaration*.

II. Publicity and Confidentiality

The organizer or the Organizing Committee of the Better Design Award reserves the right to use the materials submitted by participants—either



directly or through a third party—for promotional activities related to the competition. These activities may include but are not limited to photography, exhibitions, media coverage, and publication. If a participant requires confidentiality for their work, a written application must be submitted to the Organizing Committee within five (5) working days after the completion of registration. Otherwise, the submitted work will be deemed public, and the Committee shall bear no responsibility for any losses resulting from public display or dissemination.

III. Registration Information

All registration information must be filled in truthfully and accurately. Once submitted, the information cannot be modified. If an error is discovered after submission, the Committee will not make any changes. If false information is found, the Committee reserves the right to disqualify the entry, revoke any awards, and recover any granted prizes. To ensure smooth evaluation, the Committee and the Jury reserve the right to adjust the entry category according to competition rules and the specific characteristics of the submission.

IV. Entry Requirements

1. Product Design Category: Entries must be either: Products launched within the past two years (i.e., after September 2024), or Products not yet launched but capable of entering mass production before this year's award ceremony. Entries must be able to provide a fully functional prototype for the current year's second-round evaluation. The lead designer or design team



must hold the relevant intellectual property rights, and the product must comply with national industrial policies, technical regulations, and standards.

2. Concept Design Category: Entries must be original works or proposals not yet commercialized or in production. For physical entries, participants must provide a physical model and a video clearly presenting the design concept for both the second and final evaluation rounds. Works should demonstrate significant innovation in terms of functionality, structure, form, technology, materials, and sustainability.

3. Design for Industry Category: Entries must represent a complete project with clear evidence of design-driven industrial transformation. Projects should demonstrate strong innovation, exemplary value, and significant industrial impact. Participants must submit documentation on design outcomes, media coverage, and industrial impact, including economic data and supply chain development details.

4. Each entry may be submitted to only one category. Works that have participated in previous editions of the competition may not be resubmitted.

5. All entries must be original and innovative projects, with legitimate participation rights. There must be no intellectual property disputes, and the entry must not infringe upon the intellectual property, ownership, usage rights, or disposal rights of any third party.

V. Notification of Results

All important notifications, including evaluation results, will be published on the official website and the application system. Participants are responsible



for regularly checking these channels. The Committee will not be held liable for any missed information or delays caused by the participant's negligence, including those that affect evaluation, awards, or other related matters.

VI. Submission of Entries

1. In accordance with the evaluation rules, participants shortlisted for the second round of the Product Design category must submit a physical product or prototype (model) for review. Participants in the Design for Industry category must strictly follow the current year's Submission Instructions. Failure to deliver the work on time and as specified will be considered voluntary withdrawal from the second-round evaluation.
2. All costs related to submission, including transportation, insurance, and customs duties, must be borne by the participant. The Organizing Committee is not responsible for any damage or loss incurred during transportation.
3. During the Entry Shipping Information Submission Period, participants must log into the application system to truthfully fill in their shipping and return details. The Committee will only assume responsibility for safekeeping based on the submitted information. Please refer to the BDA Entry Delivery Guidelines for Shortlisted Works (to be released together with the preliminary results) for exact submission dates.
4. All evaluation and exhibition activities will be conducted in professional venues, and all handling, transportation, storage, and review procedures will comply with relevant industry standards. If participants require insurance, they must arrange it independently.



5. During on-site evaluation, the Jury will operate and test each entry. Participants are responsible for ensuring their work is installed and debugged for proper operation. If the participant entrusts the Committee with installation and debugging, a detailed video or instruction manual must be provided. If the instructions are unclear, ambiguous, or contain errors, the Committee shall not be held responsible for any adverse consequences resulting from improper installation or operation.

VII. Return of Entries

1. In principle, the Organizing Committee will not assume responsibility for returning entries. If participants require the Committee to arrange the return of their works, they must accurately complete the return shipping information during the Entry Shipping Information Submission Period. Late submissions will not be accepted.

2. The Organizing Committee will arrange two scheduled return shipments: The first return shipment will take place after the second-round evaluation and will include non-awarded works only. The second return shipment will occur after the touring exhibition and will include all awarded entries and remaining non-awarded entries.

Please refer to the official website and submission system of the Better Design Award for the exact dates of the return period. To ensure the smooth operation of judging, exhibitions, and other event activities, participants may not request returns outside the designated return periods.

3. All costs related to the return of entries, including shipping and customs



duties, must be borne by the participants. For domestic shipments within China, the Committee will use freight collect (receiver pays). For international returns, participants must provide a valid international courier account for fee deduction. Delivery times are subject to the logistics service provider, and the Committee shall not be held responsible for delivery time or shipment outcomes.

4. If a participant fails to request a return during the Shipping Information Submission Period, the Committee will charge a “delayed management fee.” Refer to the Entry Shipping Instructions for the applicable year for details on fee standards. The Committee will proceed with return arrangements only after confirming payment of the related fees, and all return times will be scheduled by the Committee—no express or expedited return services will be accepted.

5. If the participant fails to enter return shipping information into the system within the designated period, it will be considered as a voluntary forfeiture of ownership of the submitted physical work. The Committee reserves the right to dispose of the physical work at its own discretion.

6. The Organizing Committee will decide whether to use declared value insurance based on the return shipping details provided by the participant. If any damage or loss occurs after the participant receives the returned work, any claims or disputes must be resolved directly between the participant and the logistics provider. The Committee will not be held liable for any related issues or compensation.



VIII. Donation and Collection

1. The Organizing Committee will only collect award-winning entries that meet the required standards and will issue an official “BDA Collection Certificate.”
2. Entries that receive a cash prize must be donated to the Organizing Committee. In cases where the entry is intended for continued R&D use, is too large to transport, or its market value exceeds the awarded prize amount, the winner must submit a written request along with relevant supporting documents. Upon review and approval by the Committee, the donation may be substituted with a scaled model or prototype sample of the winning work.

IX. Final Evaluation & Awards Ceremony

All finalists must assign a representative to participate in the final evaluation. Failure to attend the final evaluation will be considered a voluntary withdrawal from both the award and prize competition. All winners will be invited to attend the annual Awards Ceremony. Travel and accommodation expenses shall be borne by the participants themselves. If a winner is unable to attend in person, a representative may attend on their behalf. Failure to attend will be considered a forfeiture of both the award and the prize.

X. Certificates, Trophies & Prize Disbursement

1. The Organizing Committee will issue electronic award certificates for all winning entries. Certificates will be automatically generated in the submission system after the final evaluation. Participants may download them directly from the system. For printed certificates, please contact the



Committee to arrange issuance.

2. Trophies will be presented on site at the Awards Ceremony to winners in attendance. Each winning entry is entitled to one trophy only. Winners who do not attend the ceremony will be deemed to have waived their right to receive a trophy.

3. The Organizing Committee will award prize money to winning entries based on the final evaluation results. Prizes will be disbursed via bank transfer in accordance with PRC tax and financial regulations, and will be sent to the winner's designated personal or corporate bank account. If the prize recipient is different from the applicant listed during registration, a signed and sealed letter of authorization from both parties must be submitted.

XI. Final Acknowledgment: Participants must thoroughly review this Participation Guide prior to submission. If a participant disagrees with any of the above terms, they are advised not to participate in this competition. By submitting an entry, the participant is deemed to have irrevocably accepted all terms and conditions outlined in this document. The Organizing Committee reserves the final right of interpretation for this Participation Guide.