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Official Magazine Wins Gold Communicator Award

Ontario, Calif. (June 1, 2009) — *Official* magazine, the plumbing and mechanical industry trade periodical and membership publication of the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO), is the recipient of an Award of Excellence, the highest honor bestowed by the International Academy of the Visual Arts for their 15th Annual Communicator Awards.

The staff of *Official*, Co-editors Jeff Ortiz and Geoff Bilau and Staff Writer Tim denHartog, received the prestigious Gold Communicator Award in the category of Association Magazine for the September/October 2008 issue of *Official*.

Gaby Davis, IAPMO senior director of Worldwide Operations, said: "We receive regular compliments from members and others within our industry on *Official*. We have a lot of information to share about our various publications and services, and our magazine staff finds a way to deliver that message beautifully. This is the fifth award presented to the *Official* staff over a relatively short period of time. I am proud of the work they have done. I welcome those outside of our industry to take a look at our magazine — there is really nothing else like it in the plumbing industry."

The Communicator Awards is the leading international awards program honoring creative excellence for communications professionals. The 2009 Communicator Awards received more 7,000 entries from companies and agencies of all sizes, making it the largest and most prestigious award of its kind.

The Award of Excellence is given to those entries whose ability to communicate puts them among the best in the field. The Award of Distinction is presented for projects that exceed industry standards in quality and achievement.

The Communicator Awards is sanctioned and judged by the International Academy of the Visual Arts, an invitation-only body consisting of top-tier professionals from a "Who's Who" of acclaimed media, communications, advertising, creative and marketing firms.

Official entered its 52nd year of publication this year. The first issue of the magazine, then known as *Western Plumbing Official*, was published in April 1958.

"This award is a tremendous honor and tribute to the hard work of everybody involved, as we continue to seek better ways to communicate with IAPMO members and our industry as a whole," Bilau said. "Outside peer recognition of this magnitude validates the progress we've made and gives us greater confidence to challenge convention in fostering that connection with readers."

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Sponsor of the Uniform Codes, IAPMO – The International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials – works in concert with government and industry for safe, sanitary plumbing and mechanical systems. Learn more about IAPMO at www.iapmo.org.

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