



LFA INNOVATION 2026 REGULATION

A Venue for Showcasing and Distinguishing Innovative Products and Services

Framework

Lisbon Food Affair (LFA2026) promotes and enhances INNOVATION in the food sector by providing a specific area for participating companies in each edition, to showcase their products, including INNOVATIVE services and technology.

LFA INNOVATION 2026 will be a meeting place with great additional value for supply and demand in this macro-sector, both nationally and internationally, and will be the ideal platform to showcase and reward innovation.

With the main purpose of supporting companies' efforts in designing, developing, and launching innovative new products, whether in Food & Beverage, Equipment and Technology for Industry, or for the Horeca channel, LFA 2026 offers companies their own appropriate space for this purpose at the fair.

LFA INNOVATION 2026 will thus be a showroom for the diffusion and promotion of new, innovative products, organized and decorated in a meticulous and functional manner, showcasing the type of innovation (radical/total, market-driven, or continuous) among the products on display.

LFA INNOVATION 2026 will also be one of the most relevant areas for professional visitors from the sector and communication professionals, as it will enable them to discover the most recently launched products on the market.

LFA INNOVATION 2026 will also be one of the most significant areas for trade visitors and communications specialists, as it provides an opportunity to discover the latest products launched on the market.



Regulations

Article 1 - Objective

The area known as LFA INNOVATION 2026 is one of the activities of LFA 2026 and aims to reveal and promote the innovative nature of the participating companies, by highlighting the new products and innovations on display at each edition.

Article 2 - Scope

What participating in LFA INNOVATION 2026 entails:

- a) Being present in the exhibition area: products will be shown in the exhibition area set up for this purpose, in display cases, along with the identification of each product.
- b) A datasheet describing each product in Portuguese and English will be placed at the exhibition site, if it has been provided by the company;
- c) The organization will distribute information regarding LFA INNOVATION 2026 products on the event website, on social media, and in specific announcements to be issued to the media.

Article 3 - Candidates

LFA INNOVATION 2026 is open to all companies participating in Lisbon Food Affair 2026, held between February 9th and 11th.

Article 4 – Products

1. New products will be accepted for participation if launched between January 1, 2025, and the first day of the event, February 9, 2026.
2. Accepted for participation are new products that can be marketed in distribution/retail or in the Horeca/Foodservice channel (hotels, restaurants and catering).
3. The level of innovation will consist of new products or improvements to existing products on the market, through changes in their characteristics, manufacturing methods, form, packaging, design, or other innovations such as environmental impact, business models, and applied technologies, if they provide added value to the market..
4. The products submitted must be original, and the applicants are responsible for their originality.



5. The products presented at LFA INNOVATION 2026 must correspond to one of the three defined INNOVATION categories:

i) **Radical or Total Innovation**

Products that are entirely innovative in terms of their composition, the technology applied, or their presentation.

ii) **Market Innovation**

New products launched on the Portuguese market, but which are already available on other markets and whose innovation lies in their composition, technology, or presentation.

iii) **Continuous Innovation**

New Products that are either an improved version of a product, an extension of a range, or a new range.

Article 5 – Formal Application

1. To participate, exhibiting companies must submit to the organization an individual proposal for each product, by means of a description sheet provided by the organization.
2. A maximum of four products per company will be allowed, subject to the maximum availability of exhibition space, according to the date of registration.
3. At least three high-resolution photographs (maximum 24 MB and 300 dpi) of the product, the packaging (if applicable), and both the product and packaging together must be submitted with the application.

Article 6 – Reference Dates

1. **Application Deadlines**

Submitting the complete application, consisting of the form for each product, up to a maximum of four, including photo(s): January 16, 2026.

2. **Jury decision date**

The jury, made up of specialists in the sector, will evaluate the applications and vote after the date mentioned in point 1 of this article, complementing the decision-making process with a visit to the exhibition area.



3. Delivery Date of Approved Products

Option 1 - Products must be sent/delivered to “LFA Innovation 2026,” FIL Meeting Centre- Rua do Bojador – Parque das Nações 1998-010 Lisbon, after acceptance of your application in conformity with Article 4, properly packaged, each one labeled with the name of the exhibiting company and the product name, by **February 6th**.

Option 2 – Products must be delivered **by hand** to the cloakroom at FIL Pavilion 1 , **between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. on February 7th and 8th, 2026**, each one properly packaged and identified with the name of the exhibiting company and the product designation.

4. Winners Announcement Date

Winners will be revealed at a special ceremony during LFA2026: February 9, 2025, at the time and place to be confirmed.

5. Failure to deliver products for exhibition

The Failure of these deadlines will be grounds for immediate exclusion.

Article 7 - Participation Advantages

The jury will assess the proposals to award the following distinguishing features:

i) Digital Seal

A distinctive LFA INNOVATION 2026 seal will be supplied in digital format to all participating companies. This seal can be used by companies as a guarantee of innovation for their products and can be applied to all promotional media: packaging, websites, catalogs, etc..

ii) Stand Identification Element

The Organization will provide an identifier stating “**Company competing for the LFA INNOVATION 2026 Award**” to participating companies so they can identify their stand during the fair. This will enable professional visitors to easily recognize companies with new products, generating visitor traffic between the fair space and the stands of participating companies and vice versa.

iii) Exhibition in a place dedicated to Innovation

This exhibition area will be situated in a prominent location at the fair and will display the products of all participating companies, to bring in visitors and give them detailed info on the products, their innovative features, and the companies that make them.



iv) **LFA INNOVATION 2026 Award Attribution**

It will be awarded to products that reveal truly distinctive characteristics as innovative products, and a **physical trophy** will be presented to them, bearing the distinctive **LFA INNOVATION 2026 seal**.

This award will be advertised in industry magazines with which the Organization has established agreements.

This distinction may not be awarded if no products meet the consensus of the jury members regarding the existence of truly distinctive characteristics.

Article 8- LFA INNOVATION 2026 AWARD

1. The LFA INNOVATION 2026 award will be given in the following categories

1. Food & Beverage
 - i. Award
 - ii. Honorable Mention
2. Horeca Channel
 - i. Award
 - ii. Honorable Mention
3. Technology
 - i. Award
 - ii. Honorable Mention

2. The Jury will rank each product according to the following criteria and sub criteria:

a) Criteria (base elements)

The jury will rank each product in accordance with the following criteria, on a scale of 1 to 10,

- i) **Product** innovation in relation to products of the same type already on the market
- ii) Innovation in the **Manufacturing Process** compared to products of the same type already on the market
- iii) Innovation in **Presentation**, in relation to products of the same type already on the market
- iv) Innovation in **Design and/or Packaging**, in relation to products of the same type already on the market



b) Sub criteria (supplementary elements)

The jury will classify each product in accordance with the following criteria, adding an extra point whenever the product:

- i) Incorporates innovative **Sustainability** factors, in relation to products of the same type already on the market, which contribute to the green transition of the economy, in any of the criteria indicated in a).
- ii) Considers integrating **Technological Innovation/Digitization in the sector**, such as AI or blockchain, into the production process or tracking the food chain.
- iii) Promotes the **use of local raw materials or promotes the Mediterranean diet** as an element of major cultural and health value in Portugal.

The highest rating will be awarded to the product that best complies with the criteria defined in this regulation in each Category, conferring the first Prize, and the rating immediately following it will confer an Honorable Mention.

3. If two or more products receive the same rating, a new rating will be attributed after these projects have been discussed by the jury.
4. The jury's decision is final and cannot be appealed.

Article 9 - LFA INNOVATION 2026 Area

1. Once accepted, innovative products must be delivered for display at the **LFA INNOVATION 2026** space on the date stated in Article 6(3), so that they can be seen by LFA professional trade visitors.

Failure by the applicant to meet any of these deadlines will be grounds for immediate exclusion.

2. We remind you that the exhibition of products at **LFA INNOVATION 2026** will take place physically in glass display cases, without a cooling system. Therefore, we request that products/samples be made available to the **LFA2026** event organizers, prepared for exhibition and considering possible scenarios, namely:

. Refrigerated, frozen, perishable, or short-shelf-life products (which may deteriorate) should be packed in their original packaging, and their contents, if visible, should be imaged using a photograph or the like.

In the case of products with glass packaging, we request the delivery of two samples of each, to provide for any handling incidents until the exhibition is assembled.



Machines, equipment, software, and any larger products will be displayed through photographs or similar material specially prepared for this purpose by the company.

3. Products submitted for exhibition may be collected on the last day of LFA 2026, at the exhibition area. If not collected, products will be kept for a maximum of two additional business days and cannot be collected thereafter.
4. Forms and information requested that are not filled out completely or that contains any omissions will be published as they are, so it is in the interest of exhibiting companies to fill them out properly.
5. If you would like the information to be available in English, please complete the same form provided also in this language. Please note that this information will be used as the framework for future business contacts.
6. The Organization is not responsible for omissions or errors in the filling out of the forms.
7. The Organization may refuse registration if the products do not comply with the stipulations of these Regulations. Companies whose products are excluded or restricted based on the quantity of products and available space will be contacted...

Article 10- Final Provisions

1. For any queries deriving from these regulations, LFA 2026 will issue its binding ruling.
2. The organization guarantees the confidentiality of the entire process, as well as the anonymity of the competing companies whose products/services are not considered to be innovative for the award.