

Minutes
Technical Standards Committee
Friday, January 23, 1998
Dallas/Ft. Worth Airport Marriott
Irving, TX

Chairman: George Sabbi, PRG

Recording secretary: Karl G. Ruling

TSC members in attendance: Frank Stewart, Associated Theatrical Contractors
Bill Groener, Barbizon Electric
Mike Wood, High End Systems
Mike Garl, James Thomas Engineering, Inc.
Tony Douglas-Beveridge, PLASA
Steve Terry, Production Arts
Steve Carlson, Rosco/Entertainment Technology
Mitch Hefter, Rosco/Entertainment Technology
Jay O. Glerum, USITT/Jay O. Glerum & Associates
Paul Vincent, Vincent Lighting Systems
Lori Rubinstein, ESTA (non-voting)

Visitors: Geoff Shiell, Bytecraft
Larry Schoeneman, Interesting Products
Randall W. A. Davidson, Risk International & Associates

1 Opening remarks

George Sabbi called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM

2 Attendance and membership
(Five required for quorum.)

Attendance was taken by passing a hot pink attendance sheet. A quorum was present.

3 Approval of minutes from the previous meeting

Steve Terry moved to accept the minutes as written. Steve Carlson seconded. Unanimous show of hands.

4 Call for patents and anti-trust statement

The chair read the following statements.

ESTA intends to publish no standard that contains protected intellectual property, unless that property can be licensed by anyone for a reasonable fee. ESTA uses a process of open patent disclosures to implement this intent. ESTA does not conduct patent searches and does not warrant that its standards contain no protected intellectual property.

In keeping with the open disclosure policy, I ask if anyone present wishes to notify the Technical Standards Committee of the existence of a patent or copyright that might protect material in a standard being developed by a working group. You need not be the holder of the patent or copyright in order to notify the TSC of its existence.

The ESTA Board of Directors and the leadership of this Technical Standards Committee will reject or nullify any actions that restrain trade. Anyone who feels that an action restraining trade is being or has been taken is requested to bring the matter to the attention of the chair immediately. Anyone who feels that actions in restraint of trade have been taken and not properly annulled is requested to notify the TSC chair or ESTA president immediately.

ESTA legal counsel has informed us that any member of this committee may be found individually liable for any action that restrains trade taken by this committee. An individual convicted of a violation of the Sherman Act may be fined as much as \$100,000 and be imprisoned for up to three years. An easy to read pamphlet describing restraint of trade is available from the Technical Standards Committee.

Paul Vincent mentioned two hot topics for the ESTA Board of Directors: the recently drafted Code of Conduct and the Certification Committee. Paul Vincent offered to show the TSC Marge Roman's letter to him regarding the state of California's interpretation of "qualified person" as called for in NFPA 70.

5 Approval of agenda

Mitch Hefter asked that a report on DIN and DMX be added as item 6.2.2.6.

Jay Glerum moved to accept the agenda with the addition of item 6.2.2.6. Mike Garl seconded. Unanimous by show of hands.

6 Old business

6.1 Financial reports

6.1.1 Treasurer's report

Frank Stewart presented the ESTA Expense 1997 report (TSC/98-0003) and the Technical Standards Program Summary (TSC/98-0004). (Both are appended to these minutes.)

Tony Douglas-Beveridge asked whether the Fog & Smoke Working Group has money budgeted for more studies. Frank Stewart said it did.

Paul Vincent moved to accept the budget for 1998 shown on the ESTA Expense 1997 report. Mitch Hefter seconded. Unanimous by show of hands. The budget was thus approved for submittal to the Board.

6.1.2 Status of contributions and pledges

Bill Groener presented the Technical Standards Fund Raising Program Campaign report (TSC/98-0005). This precipitated a long discussion of who has made a donation, who will make a donation, and who on the TSC might call to request a donation.

Bill Groener said the fund raising campaign is moving fairly well, and we have the possibility of exceeding last year's donations. He urged the TSC members to "Make hay while the sun shines, because it might rain." Our goal is to have all the appeals done by USITT.

Steve Terry said he would be surprised if we had significant donation income past the year 2000. Paul Vincent pointed out that people can help support ESTA by using the services ESTA offers, and, in the process, save themselves money, too.

Bill Groener asked Frank Stewart if donations to ESTA are tax deductible. Frank and Lori both said yes.

Jay Glerum pointed out that sending working group members to meetings was in itself a substantial donation to the technical standards program. This initiated a discussion about thanking the companies for their non-monetary support. It was resolved that Karl Ruling will send a letter to working group members asking them if they would like a thank you letter to be sent to their supervisor. Paul Vincent or George Sabbi will write and send the letter if one is requested.

6.1.3 Accounting of TSP documents sold and on-hand

Lori presented the TSP Publications Accounting report (TSC/98-0006). There are only 17 copies of the wire rope ladder standard on hand at Broadway Press, but Mike Garl recommended that we not print more since the standard is being rewritten.

6.2 Working group reports

6.2.1 Photometrics

Ruling reported that the primary project of this working group is the E1.9, nutrition label standard. The principal author of this document, Glen Cunningham, is not expected to be able to complete the project, so others, principally Larry Liberman, are taking it up. It was not possible to have a revised version of the document in time for the scheduled January meeting, so this meeting was cancelled. Ruling was confident that a revised draft will be available for the March meeting.

The revamp/renew IES measuring procedures project is in the hands of an IES committee, and Jody Good is keeping Ruling informed on its progress.

The public information project to explain the new E1.9 photometry reporting standard and the IES measurement procedures is on hold until those projects are completed.

6.2.2 Control Protocols

6.2.2.1 Steve Carlson reported that the comments received on E1.3, analog control will be resolved at the working group meeting.

6.2.2.2 Steve Carlson and Steve Terry said they would reclude themselves as chairs during the discussion of the "More Power to DMX" project. Ruling will chair that section of the meeting so Carlson and Terry can offer motions on what to do with the various proposals and suggestions in the report from the task group.

Mitch Hefter announced he will reapply for membership as a representative for USITT. It would be helpful to have USITT representation on the working group when DMX issues are discussed.

6.2.2.3 Steve Carlson reported that Tim Bachman and Milton Davis will present their fast Ethernet draft addendum to the Ethernet cabling recommended practice at the working group meeting.

6.2.2.4 Steve Carlson reported on the state of the Advanced Control Network project. They plan to develop a reference design kit, a suite of hardware and software modules that will allow software developers to try out ACN. Phillip Nye has developed a draft of the object class model, which will also be presented at the CPWG meeting.

Ruling complained that, since the ACN task group has submitted nothing to the working group, he has no documents to distribute to the public when people with a legitimate interest inquire. Steve Carlson offered to have the working group develop a one-page bulleted list of what ACN will do.

There was a discussion of how the numerous projects of the working group use up time so little is left for the ACN task group to accomplish anything on the days the CP Working Group is scheduled to meet. Jay O. Glerum recommended that the working group approve the work of the task group, rather than trying to resolve comments itself. This would remove one of the most time-consuming tasks, the detailed resolution of public review comments, from the work of the working group. The working group, as the deliberative body, would still have to approve the resolutions suggested by the task group. Steve Carlson and Steve Terry favorably accepted this recommendation.

6.2.2.5 The ESTA/PLASA DMX Compliance Survey, now known the "PICS List," was briefly discussed. Steve Terry explained that "PICS" stands for "Protocol Interface Compliance Statement," and that it is a standard tool for reporting compliance with a standard or bid specification. The working group will decide what to do with the PICS. First, they will decide if it is a complete document. Second, they will decide whether it should be published by ESTA, should be used by the CPWG for a survey, or recommended to USITT for them to publish or add to the DMX512 standard as an addendum.

6.2.2.6 Mitch Hefter presented his report on his communications with DIN over DMX. (See appended document TSC/98-001) Tony Douglas-Beveridge explained that DIN had notified CEN of the initiation of this project, but that CEN had sent on the notification to CENELEC, which did nothing with it. As a result, no other nationally based standards-making organization knew about the project. CEN normally handles mechanical standards, and this is the body to which theatrical standards are normally referred because most German theatrical standards are mechanical. However, DMX512 is an electrical standard, so CEN sent it to CENELEC.

This report was informational only. No action was required from the TSC.

6.2.3 Fog and Smoke

6.2.3.1 Larry Schoeneman was present to explain the E1.5 glycol/glycerin fog standard. The project had ground to a halt at the last meeting because we could not agree at that time on how to deal with additives such as scents and colorants. The working group hopes that the draft fog standard will be an effective tool for getting the Chemical Manufacturers Association involved in our work, either by releasing relevant documents they may have or by helping to fund studies.

6.2.3.2 Ruling explained that the second edition of the Introduction to Modern Atmospheric Effects was pending the approval of the ESTA Board. Page layout has commenced in anticipation of that approval.

6.2.3.3 Schoeneman explained that Murray Gellatly was leading a task group to develop a standard for fog machine manuals. Murray will not be at this next meeting with a draft document, but we expect to see him at the March meeting.

6.2.3.4 Misc. fog controversies in the press

Lori Rubinstein and Ruling reported on the recent NY Times article about the musician's union complaining about all atmospheric effects, and the reporting of the story on WCBS. Copies of the CIH studies were sent to the respective editors and to CNN Radio, along with a cover letter directing them to additional information on our website.

Jay Glerum suggested we contact the Musicians Union and send them the information, too. Karl Ruling gets to do it.

6.2.4 Rigging

6.2.4.1 Ruling reported that TSC letter ballots on E1.6 and E1.8 had not been returned from Steve Carlson, Ted Paget, and George Sabbi. Carlson and Sabbi immediately filled out ballots and turned them in.

6.2.4.1.2 E1.8, speaker enclosures for flying. No news.

6.2.4.2 Documents back from public reviews:

Mike Garl reported that the task group had resolved 20 of 61 comments on E1.2, the truss and tower standard. The task group will meet on January 24 to resolve more comments.

Jay Glerum reported that suggested resolutions to the comments received on E1.4, manual counterweight rigging, were being circulated among the task group.

Mike Garl said that the comments received on E1.1, the wire rope ladder standard, still needed to be resolved. He recommended that the old ESTA standard be reprinted because it will take some time to get the new E1.1 processed. (Secretary's note: This is different advice than that shown above under 6.1.3. Probably this recommendation, coming after a discussion of how much work remains to be done on E1.1, is the better advice.)

6.2.4.3. Documents still in committee

Ruling reported that a new version of E1.7, a recommended practice for flying performers, was mailed to the working group too late to meet the two-week rule, but early enough that people at the working group meeting should have received the document. It will be discussed at the meeting, unless someone objects.

Jay Glerum reported that Jerry Gorrell is working on the E1.X Building Structural Requirements standard. The working group has not received an updated document

Mike Garl mentioned the IAAM scoreboard controversy covered in a fax received from Jack Schmidt. Jay Glerum reported that some scoreboards have fallen, and the IAAM has a committee to look into finding or developing standards for scoreboard rigging. Jay Glerum is working with that committee.

6.3 Larry Schoeneman's NFPA report

Schoeneman's fax (TSC/98-0009) to Karl Ruling, which had been forwarded by Ruling to the TSC, is attached.

Schoeneman reported it was a good thing he went to the NFPA meeting, since they are likely to expand their purview. Schoeneman saw at the meeting that there is a need for fog standards for CO₂ and liquid nitrogen. NFPA doesn't want to do it, but an ANSI group should.

The TSC decided that Schoeneman's NFPA liaison is part of the Fog & Smoke Working Group's work. The NFPA line item will be rolled into the F&S budget.

Schoeneman has applied to join the NFPA Technical Committee on Special Effects as a non-directed vote. Steve Terry said George Sabbi and Karl Ruling should be kept apprised, and major issues should be reported to them, but that Larry Schoeneman's vote will not be directed. The other members of the TSC agreed.

Schoeneman said the next NFPA meeting probably will be in the fall in New York City.

6.4 Public relations/advertising

Lori distributed the taupe-colored Technical Standards Program flier (TSC/98-0010) that was developed for the Performance Summit.

Jay Glerum commented that the first paragraph of the flier is a message we need to sell to news and other organizations so they know we are "the leader in creating standards and recommended practices for the entertainment technology industry." He said that this seems not to be widely known since ESTA was not contacted for comment with the recent controversy in the news about the musician's union and fog.

Lori agreed we need a more active PR and marketing program for the TSP. She noted that some members of the TSC were charged with providing marketing planning, but had done little in this regard.

Steve Terry suggested we should hire an outside company to develop a marketing plan. Paul Vincent said he would bring it up to the Board.

Frank Stewart, Jay Glerum, Larry Schoeneman, and Steve Terry will draw up some ideas of what we would want a PR/marketing firm to do, and then request proposals from some firms before the next TSC meeting.

6.5 Distribution of ESTA standards by USITT.

Paul Vincent presented the proposal from Christine Kaiser, president of USITT, to have USITT distribute our standards and other documents (TSC/98-0011). The proposal has several points that would maintain a separation of identity between USITT and ESTA:

1. Mail orders would be directed to a US Post Office box.
2. Fax orders would go to a non-USITT identified fax machine.
3. Phone orders would be placed to an ESTA standards-dedicated phone line.
4. ESTA and USITT would work together to achieve an electronic order process that would maintain ESTA's identity.

Steve Terry moved we accept the proposal. Paul Vincent seconded. Unanimous by show of hands.

7 New business

7.1 Representation on working groups for conglomerates and publicly held companies.

Lori presented David Saltiel's letter (TSC/98-0012) regarding the number of votes a corporation that is a conglomerate of many companies may have. His opinion is that such a company, giving it three votes could hold an aggregate of three ESTA memberships letter.

Mitch Heffer pointed out that the P&P has a more restricted membership definition, and more restricted voting rights for conglomerates. Page 4 of the P&P, version 3.1, states:

"There shall be only one voting membership for each separate corporation. A separate corporation is defined as an entity which has a controlling body (such as a Board of Directors) that does not report to another controlling body."

The consensus of the TSC was that the P&P covers this topic adequately. For the purposes of voting in the Technical Standards Program, only one vote per corporation shall be allowed on a working group, as stated in the P&P.

7.2 Dealing with emotional, outspoken WG members (a.k.a. "loose cannons")

Karl Ruling briefly described the personal communications between a member of the Rigging Working Group and James D. Smith, one of the negative commentators on the E1.1 wire rope ladder standard. The member had taken umbrage at Smith's comments and written him. Smith wrote back and copied Ruling. Ruling sent a fax

of apology to Smith, and pointed out in email to the working group member that attacking the commentors was not helpful. The working group member has said he will not do so in the future.

Working group chairs are to remind working group members that they are not to communicate with the commentors directly. Comment resolutions are formally done through the TSC.

8 Other business

None.

9 Schedule for future meetings

At USITT:

TSC	Wednesday	18 March	1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Truss & Rigging	Wednesday	18 March	7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
CP	Thursday	19 March	9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Fog & Smoke	Thursday	19 March	7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
Photo	Saturday	21 March	1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The hotel where the meetings will be held is now called the Westin Long Beach.

The summer meetings probably will be the second or third weekend of July. Sites in Chicago will be explored.

10 Adjournment

Steve Terry moved we adjourn. Bill Groener seconded. No objections. The meeting was adjourned at 5:16 p.m.