

Minutes
Technical Standards Committee

November 20, 1996

Omni Rosen Hotel

Orlando, FL

George Sabbi, Chair

Karl G. Ruling, Acting Secretary

In attendance: Frank Stewart, Associated Theatrical Contractors
Jack Suesse, J.R. Clancy
Mitch Hefter, Rosco/ET
Mike Garl, James Thomas Engineering
Paul Vincent, Vincent Lighting Systems
Bill Groener, Barbizon Electric
Anne Valentino, Vari-Lite
Tony Douglas-Beveridge, PLASA
Steve Terry, Production Arts Lighting
Steve Carlson, Rosco/ET
Colin Waters, TMB Associates
Lori Rubinstein, Executive Director for ESTA

Visitors: Dan Haydt, Remote Source Lighting International
Mike Wood, High End Systems
Jay Glerum, Jay O. Glerum & Associates
Richard Nix, Axxis Group
Ted Paget, Jones & Phillips Associates
Neil Huff, PRISM, Inc.
David Saltiel; Bell, Boyd, and Lloyd (counsel for ESTA)

1. Opening Remarks

Meeting called to order by George Sabbi at 1:10 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Revised agenda offered by George Sabbi. Hefter moved, Terry seconded approval of revised agenda. Unanimous.

3. Attendance and Membership

3.1 Introductions of those present

4. Executive Session

Existing members of TSC requested to stay. Visitors asked to step outside.

Bill Groener explained the morning's Steering Committee meeting and the recommendation to limit the total TSC membership.

Waters moved, Garl second to accept Steering Committee report. All in favor.

For this meeting the voting group is the existing group. New appointments will be announced.

Visitors invited to return to the meeting, and the group formally left executive session. Paul Vincent explained the re-revision of the TSC.

Bill Groener brought up the matter of the TSC vision statement and the need to substitute "Program" for "Committee" to take the emphasis off the TSC and put it on the larger program the TSC administers. Lori Rubinstein read the Vision Statement with the word substitution. Terry moved, Valentino seconded to accept the Vision Statement with the word substitution. Approved unanimously. (The revised version of the Vision Statement is at the end of these minutes.)

5. Approval of minutes from the previous meeting
Groener moved, Terry seconded. Accepted.

6. Call for patents, anti-trust statement
The following statements were read by George Sabbi:

Anti-Trust Statement

The ESTA Board of Directors, the Technical Standards Committee, and the leadership of this Working Group 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 working group may be found individually liable for any action that restrains trade taken by this working group. 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.

Call for Patents Statement

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 working group of the existence of a patent that might protect material in a standard being developed by the working group. You need not be the holder of the patent in order to notify the working group of its existence.

7. Old Business

7.1 Treasurer's Report [Frank Stewart]

7.1.1 Review of 1996 Operating Budget

7.1.2 Review of 1997 Operating Budget

See "Sheet 1" (Document # 96-0091) attached.

There was discussion of having a "contingency fund" or some kind of line item for working groups. It was decided by consensus that the working group chairs as part of their reports will request money for 1997 above the normal meeting expenses.

Steve Terry asked to go on record as thanking Frank Stewart for the budget report.

7.2 Working Group Reports by Chairs

7.2.1 Control Protocols

Steve Carlson announced the publication of the Ethernet RP and described the task group meeting held in San Jose to work on a Fast Ethernet RP. Ruling described the additions to the DMX usage data on the ESTA Web site. Carlson also talked about the work being done on a common Ethernet protocol.

Steve Terry asked for input from TSC on how to motivate the industry to support the common Ethernet protocol. It was decided that a "call to arms" should be published in Protocol and Lighting Dimensions. Terry will write the Protocol article with Ted Paget contributing a sidebar. Ruling will contact LD to determine the interest there.

Carlson requested \$5,000 for next year.

7.2.2 Fog and Smoke

Ruling reported that the glycol literature survey bid would be awarded at the Saturday meeting.

The F&S working group was directed to generate a goal list and time line for the January meeting (assuming there is January meeting).

7.2.3 Rigging

Mike Garl reported that the standard for wire rope ladders has been published. At the next meeting a draft standard for the design, manufacture, and use of aluminum trusses and towers in entertainment applications will be presented to the working group. A manual rigging standards task group will also be formed. A task group and a draft document are also expected soon for a recommended practice for flying people (as in Peter Pan). Delbert Hall and Peter Foy, two practitioners of this craft, have been working on a document.

Garl requested \$2,500 for working group support.

7.2.4 Photometrics

Daniel Haydt requested \$10,000 for the group.

7.2.5 Safe Practices and Loss Control

Neil Huff reported that Jerry Gorrell will present at the next meeting the results of his project to link identified hazards with existing regulations. The SP&LC group will address hazards not covered.

Richard Nix talked about developing certification programs. Nix presented a survey form designed to determine if there is industry support for certification. The survey form and survey were tabled.

Steve Terry recommended that Nix get together with Ken Vannice to discuss certification of electricians making temporary hookups. January target date.

Huff requested \$2,500.

7.3 ANSI Status Report

Ruling reported that the P&P version 3.1 had been submitted to address the few outstanding comments about our application for accreditation. The one person on the ANSI Executive Standards Council who made the comments has not responded to our changes. Our application is still pending.

8. New Business

8.1 Ongoing Public Relations and Publicity

Lori Rubinstein reported on our ongoing PR and the BIG BOOK of documentation of TSC work that is to be given to major donors to the TSC.

8.2 Fund Raising (1997 Fiscal)

TSC is still charged with fundraising. The dues increase has not obviated the need. Groener noted that there are sources of revenue in the TSP.

8.3 Uniform nomenclature in ads

George Sabbi outlined the problem of fog manufacturers adopting terminology that is not in the Introduction to Modern Atmospheric Effects and that tends to confuse customers. The solutions are that Ruling will write an article for Protocol explaining the terminology (i.e. "What is water-based fog?") and the F&S working group will revise the Introduction.

8.4 ESTA and DMX

Resolved that Ruling will provide a link on the ESTA Web site directing people who want to register alternate start codes to the USITT national office.

9. Other Business

10. Schedule for future meetings

January 17, 18, & 19 at the Dallas/Ft. Worth Airport Marriott

TSC: 1:00 p.m. Friday.

Rigging: Friday for task groups and Saturday night for full working group.

F&S: Friday night

CP: won't meet as a working group. Task group meetings Saturday day and Sunday morning.

Photometrics: Saturday 2-6

SP&LC: 8am to noon, Saturday.

11. Adjournment

Adjourned at 5:42:08 PM.

ESTA

Technical Standards Program

Vision Statement

The Technical Standards Program (TSP) will serve the needs of the ESTA membership and contribute to the Entertainment Industry through the creation and publication of Recommended Practices and Standards. This effort will facilitate the use of new and existing equipment, improve communications and promote safe working conditions. Through the establishment of Work Groups, the TSP will concentrate its efforts in the areas of Performance Technology, Safety and Loss Prevention. As the composition of the ESTA membership evolves, those areas may be expanded, either directly through the establishment of new Work Groups or indirectly through liaisons with other organizations and associations.

The TSP will also serve the needs of the ESTA membership by monitoring the work of other relevant standards-making bodies and regulatory agencies throughout the world. The TSP will support said technical standards efforts through information dispersal or by direct participation. Pertinent information will be disseminated to the membership through general communications and in response to individual requests.

The TSP will support the goals and objectives of ESTA and will significantly contribute to its important role as a trade association.