

Minutes
Technical Standards Committee
March 19, 1997
Doubletree Hotel
Pittsburgh, PA

Chair: George Sabbi, BASH Theatrical Lighting
Recording secretary: Karl G. Ruling, ESTA

In attendance: Bill Groener, Barbizon Electric
Colin Waters, TMB Associates
Edward Paget, Jones & Phillips Associates, Inc.
Frank Stewart, Associated Theatrical Contractors
Jay O. Glerum, Jay O. Glerum & Associates, Inc.
Lori Rubinstein, ESTA
Mike Garl, James Thomas Engineering, Inc.
Mike Wood, High End Systems
Mitch Hefter, Rosco/Entertainment Technology
Paul Vincent, Vincent Lighting Systems
Steve Carlson, Rosco/Entertainment Technology
Steve Terry, Production Arts Lighting
Tony Douglas-Beveridge, PLASA

Visitors: Larry Schoeneman, Designlab Chicago
Richard Bergman, Miami-Dade Community College
Neil Huff, PRISM, Inc.
Richard J. Nix, Richard Nix
Dr. Randall "Doom" Davidson, Risk International & Associates

1 Opening remarks

The meeting was called to order by George Sabbi at 1:07 p.m.

2 Attendance and membership

An attendance sign-in sheet was circulated.

3 Approval of minutes from the previous meeting

Steve Terry moved, Ted (Edward) Paget seconded. Unanimous.

4 Call for patents and anti-trust statement

George Sabbi read the call for patents and anti-trust 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 Technical Standards Committee of the existence of a patent that might protect material in a standard being developed by a working group. You need not be the holder of the patent 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."

5 Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved.

6 Old business

6.1 Financial report

Frank Stewart reported that we are essentially on budget. (See appended spreadsheets.)

Frank Stewart needs specific budget requests from the working groups in order to prepare next year's budget. He will develop forms that will be distributed to the WG chairs. They will return them to Karl Ruling by May 15.

6.1.1 Accounting of TSC documents sold and on-hand

Written reports from Lori Rubinstein and David Rodger were presented by Lori.

Steve Terry was concerned that fewer than 200 copies of the Ethernet RP had been sold. Karl Ruling was directed to advertise the TSC documents in the classified sections of *TCI* and *LD*. The ESTA staff was also directed to put advertisements in *Sightlines*, *IAAM*, and *Performance Magazines*. Steve Terry will help by providing some catchy copy.

6.1.2 1997 contributions to date

Bill Groener reported on contributions to date. (See the appended report with its handwritten corrections.)

6.2 Reports on fundraising by TSC members

TSC members reported on their efforts to raise donations and noted problems. Steve Terry volunteered to take over the tasks of contacting Four Star from Colin Waters and PRG from George Sabbi. Mitch Hefter reported that his company, Rosco/ET, is having problems with UL on a project, so it was not a propitious time for him to approach UL for a donation to the TSP. Steve Carlson is also having trouble approaching the management of Rosco since Rosco owns his company. Bill Groener agreed to ask Jack Suesse to make appeals to UL and Rosco.

6.3 Working group reports

6.3.1 Safe Practices and Loss Control

Ruling reported that the SP&LC Working Group has a plethora of projects, but that none was likely to result in the drafting of a standard or recommended practice. The group is pursuing setting up a training program, but the TSC voted that this project, although useful to the ESTA membership, was outside the TSC's scope.

George Sabbi appointed a TSC task group to help the SP&LC focus on one or two projects that will lead to a standard or recommended practice. Edward Paget, Colin Waters, and Karl Ruling were assigned to the task group. They will be assisted by Mitch Hefter, who is a member of the SP&LC Working Group.

6.3.2 Photometrics

Ruling reported that there are three task groups in the Photometrics Working Group set up to draft documents that

- a) define a "nutrition label" for reporting the performance of luminaires
- b) explain photometrics and photometric procedures
- c) define how the performance of theatrical luminaires should be measured and evaluated. The task group may accomplish its work by revising or reaffirming a previously drafted IES standard.

No documents were distributed in advance of the working group meeting to be held Saturday, March 22, but the task groups have been meeting or holding conference calls.

6.3.3 Control Protocols

Steve Carlson reported that the meeting scheduled for Friday, March 21 will see a draft fast Ethernet cabling recommended practice. There will also be some documents on a common Ethernet protocol, a document on 0 to 10V analog control, and more data on DMX for the web site.

6.3.4 Fog and Smoke

Larry Schoeneman reported on the CIH reports. The report from the Cohen Group is in, but the one for HSE Consulting is not.

The TSC advised the working group not to release the reports until we have responses to them. A proper response document should outline future action, and should be submitted to the TSC along with the documents.

6.3.5 Rigging

Mike Garl reported that the working group has a draft standard for aluminum trusses and towers, and a draft standard for manual rigging systems. His hope was that these would be moved to first public review.

Jay Glerum reported that a draft recommended practice for flying performers will be submitted to the working group by June, and that a draft standard for powered rigging system will be submitted by May 1.

Glerum also reported that there was talk within USITT of a standard for support steel for theatres. Maybe next year, says Jay Glerum.

Mike Garl wants an article on safety factors in *Protocol* and has a couple of writers in mind.

6.4 ANSI status report

Ruling reported the filing of PINS forms for the wire rope ladder standard, the truss and tower standard, the manual flying system standard, and the 0 to 10V analog control standard.

7 New business

7.1 ESTA NEC review items

Steve Terry requested the Chair appoint a task group to draft a comment on the NEC. George Sabbi appointed himself, Steve Terry, and Mitch Hefter. This comment is to be sent to the primary contact at each ESTA member company for a vote or comment. The resulting document would be submitted to the NFPA NEC committee as the opinion of the ESTA membership.

Ruling was directed to alert the TSC to any other hot issues.

7.2 ESTA/USITT relationship

Mitch Heffer suggested that the ESTA TSP can help USITT's standards effort by announcing their standards work in *Standards Watch*.

7.3 ESTA/ASTC relationship

Paul Vincent, Lori Rubinstein, George Sabbi, and Karl Ruling reported on their meeting earlier in the day with the American Society of Theatre Consultants. No concrete proposals came from the meeting, but it was cordial. There was interest among the ASTC in receiving *Standards Watch*. The TSC decided that this is an ESTA membership benefit, and that ASTC members wishing to receive *Standards Watch* can join ESTA.

7.4 ESTA/Teatek relationship

No report.

7.5 ESTA and UL canvassing

Karl Ruling was directed to write a letter to the appropriate UL contact expressing interest in being represented on any applicable IAGs. "Lead with dollars," says Steve Carlson.

7.6 Distribution of *Standards Watch*

Besides going to ESTA members, the publication should go to principal working group members and the TSC. A copyright notice also needs to be added to the publication.

Colin Waters complained that he never received Volume 1, Number 1. Ruling is to send him a copy.

7.7 TD&T

Sabbi expressed concern that Richard Thompson's "Is It Listed?" will generate a lot of unwarranted anxiety and confusion. The article was not peer reviewed, and the consensus of the TSC is that it should have been. TSC members were urged to write letters to the editor of TD&T suggesting more caution in the future. Ruling will write an article for *Standards Watch* addressing "Is It Listed?"

8 Other business

None.

9 Schedule for future meetings

June 28 and 29 in Irving.

Colin Waters announced he can't be there.

10 Adjournment

Steve Terry move to adjourn at 5:12 p.m. No objections.