

Minutes
Technical Standards Committee
Wednesday, March 18, 1998
Westin Long Beach Hotel
Long Beach, CA

Chairman: George Sabbi; PRG Lighting Division

Recording secretary: Karl G. Ruling

TSC members in attendance: Anne Valentino; Vari-Lite, Inc.
Bill Groener; Barbizon Electric
Edward Paget; Jones & Phillips Associates, Inc.
Frank Stewart; Associated Theatrical Contractors
Mike Garl; James Thomas Engineering, Inc.
Mike Wood; High End Systems
Mitch Hefter; Rosco/Entertainment Technology
Paul Vincent; Vincent Lighting Systems
Rodney F. Kaiser; J.R. Clancy Inc. (USITT representative)
Steve Terry; Production Arts

Visitors: Ken Vannice, NSI/Colortran Corporation
Larry Schoeneman, Interesting Products
Matthew Griffiths, PLASA

1 Opening remarks

George Sabbi welcomed all to Long Beach at 1:05 p.m.

2 Attendance and membership

A goldenrod attendance sheet was circulated. George Sabbi announced that we had a quorum. Twelve voting members were present.

Rodney Kaiser was present to represent USITT instead of the principal representative, Jay O. Glerum.

3 Approval of minutes from the previous meeting

Steve Terry moved that the minutes be accepted as written. Mike Garl seconded. Unanimous by show of hands.

4 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 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.

5 Approval of agenda

Steve Terry asked that a reading of a letter from Vari-Lite be added under "Other business 8.1"
Paul Vincent asked that certification be added under "Other business 8.2"

Mike Garl moved that the agenda be accepted with these two additions. Mike Wood seconded.
Unanimous by show of hands.

6 Old business

6.1 Financial reports

6.1.1 Treasurer's report

Frank Stewart did not provide a financial update report because only 45 days had passed since last meeting and there had not been significant financial activity. Frank Stewart did note that the expenses for Larry Schoeneman's participation in the NFPA will be reported as part of the Fog & Smoke Working Group budget.

6.1.2 Status of contributions and pledges

Bill Groener reviewed the progress of the TSP Fund Raising Campaign. (See document TSC/98-0015)
Groener also discussed with the TSC possible donors and who would contact them.

Groener noted that over the past five years we have raised over \$450,000. We are appreciative of the contributions.

6.1.3 Accounting of TSP documents sold and on-hand

Lori Rubinstein presented the "TSP Publications Accounting" spreadsheet (TSC/98-0016). The totals shown are running totals back through the first day of the publications.

Rubinstein also reported that the new fog book is out and that the old fog books are being given away at the Rimini and Frankfurt (Musik Messe) trade shows.

Steve Terry asked whether the change of distribution for our publications to USITT from Broadway Press had been effected. Lori Rubinstein said it had, and that by the first of May 1998 Broadway Press will no longer be distributing ESTA's publications. She also noted that David Rodger is amicable.

6.2 Working group reports

6.2.1 Photometrics

6.2.1.1 E1.9, nutrition label

Ruling reported that a draft version of the E1.9 standard will be presented and discussed at the Photometrics Working Group meeting on Saturday. With luck there will be a motion to send the document to public review.

George Sabbi recommended drafting a foreword mentioning Glen Cunningham's substantial contributions to the document, and drafting this foreword sooner rather than later.

6.2.1.2 Revamp/renew IES procedures

A report from Jody Good is expected at the Photometrics meeting, describing what the IES intends to do about establishing or reaffirming a procedure to measure the light output of stage and studio luminaires. Ruling reported that there is no standard procedure or recommended practice at this time.

6.2.1.3 Public information project

Ruling reported that the public information project is essentially on hold until there is something to report, such as a new photometric testing or data reporting standard.

6.2.2 Control Protocols

6.2.2.1 E1.3, analog control

Steve Terry reported that resolutions to the public review comments had been drafted, and that he thought the working group would approve the resolutions. A second public review is in the offing.

6.2.2.2 DMX projects

6.2.2.2.1 Proposal to have ESTA maintain DMX512

Steve Terry talked about the proposal that came up at a USITT Engineering Commission DMX512 meeting to transfer DMX512 to ESTA for maintenance. Mitch Hefter said that the recommendation had been passed on to USITT Board of Directors, but that they didn't get to that issue at their meeting last night (March 17). It will be taken up at the Friday meeting. Mitch is expecting no objections.

In anticipation of the acceptance by the USITT Board of Directors, Mitch Hefter suggested that there should be a motion "that the ESTA TSC forward to the Control Protocols Working Group with a positive recommendation the request of USITT regarding the maintenance of the DMX512 Standard by the ESTA Technical Standards Program." Ted Paget offered this motion, and Steve Terry seconded it. Unanimous by show of hands.

Mitch Hefter gave Tony Douglas-Beveridge's e-mailed report of March 17, 1998 on DIN and DMX:

"I have spoken to BSI today to get an update on the DIN/DMX situation following the CENELEC Technical Board Meeting on 10-12 March. Mike Lockton, who is the BSI Permanent Delegate to CENELEC, attended this meeting. Mike reported that the German delegate to the meeting had now agreed that DIN 56930 is an electrical standard (!) and should therefore have been dealt with by CENELEC rather than CEN. As a result, CENELEC have decided to circulate the DIN 56930 standard to the other European National Committees under the Vilamoura Procedure. This is the result that I had hoped to achieve when I originally briefed BSI on DIN/DMX.

"I cannot forecast at present how long it will take to go through the Vilamoura process, but I will keep in touch with BSI on this. Under the procedure, National Committees are provided with copies of the standard and requested to state whether or not they wish to participate in

the development of the standard. BSI will respond positively for the UK . I have asked international members of PLASA (via Standards News and my monthly report to the PLASA Executive, which is copied to all members) to contact their respective National Committees to stress the importance of having a single common standard for DMX. Future action on developing the standard will be directly dependent on the level of interest expressed by the other National Committees. Any additional impetus that ESTA member companies may be able to provide through their European contacts would be most helpful."

6.2.2.2.2 Protection on data lines and pin labeling

Ruling reported that Peter Willis, the task group head, would not be able to attend the CPWG meeting, and that no report had been submitted so far.

6.2.2.2.3 DMX on Cat 5 cable

Steve Terry reported on the proposal to investigate transmitting DMX512 data over Cat 5 cable. The major issue will probably be electromagnetic interference and compatibility. Some EMI/EMC testing will be needed. Lary Cotten has offered the use of High End System's testing chamber. The working group has approved the expenditure of up to \$3,000 for more rigorous laboratory testing if the initial test at High End indicates positive results.

Frank Stewart noted that there is money budgeted for the working group's use.

6.2.2.2.4 ESTA/PLASA DMX survey, a.k.a. PICS List

Karl Ruling reported that Tony Douglas-Beveridge and he had developed a second version of the PICS list for DMX512/1990, which will be presented to the CPWG. The new version is actually two versions: one for receivers and one for transmitters.

6.2.2.3 Fast Ethernet cabling project

Steve Terry reported that the document is now in working group review.

6.2.2.4 Advanced Control Network project

Steve Terry reported that the ACN task group was meeting now, even as we speak. Carlson has provided a bulleted list of goals and features of ACN, which Ruling will put on the web.

6.2.3 Fog and Smoke

6.2.3.1 E1.5, glycol/glycerin fog

At the last meeting it was moved to be sent to public review. Ruling reported that there were two negative votes, which must be discussed at this coming F&S meeting.

6.2.3.2 Fog book, second edition and beyond

Larry Schoeneman reported that Bill Hektner has been given the charge of developing a more historical introduction.

6.2.3.3 Standard for fog machine manuals

Murray Gellatly faxed a long report on existing manuals and other manufacturer literature. The report will be discussed at the F&S meeting.

6.2.3.4 Equity/League study

No news about the study.

6.2.3.5 Other F&S business

Larry Schoeneman reported that he now has a seat on the NFPA160 panel. Larry's report of the last NFPA meeting had been sent via e-mail to members of the TSC.

6.2.4 Rigging

6.2.4.1 Documents in public review:

Ruling reported that E1.6, powered rigging systems, and E1.8, speaker enclosures for flying, are in public review, and will be until April 28.

6.2.4.2 Documents back from public reviews:

Mike Garl reported the resolutions to the comments received in public reviews of E1.2, aluminum towers and trusses, and E1.4, manual counterweight rigging systems, will be discussed at the meeting tonight.

Ruling reported that the working group is still voting on the resolutions to the comments received on E1.1. They had been sent out for approval by letter ballot.

6.2.4.3 Going to public review --E1.7, flying performers

The working group letter ballot for sending E1.7 to public review was still pending.

6.2.4.4 Documents still in committee -- E1.X Building Structural Requirements

Ruling said that E1.X will be E1.10.

6.2.4.5 Other rigging business

6.2.4.5.1 Copyright issues with draft E1.2

Ruling reported that Tony Douglas-Beveridge had reported via e-mail that the draft E1.2 truss standard (20 February 1997 version) was presented for consideration at the meeting of MHE/3/13 held on 11 March 1998. At this meeting it was agreed that the E1.2 truss standard should form the basis of a new British Standard.

Ruling has had some discussions with Tony Douglas-Beveridge and Peter Hind about the permissibility of taking language verbatim from the E1.2 document and using it in the BSI standard. After some discussion the TSC decided that the formal response to this proposal would have to be:

"In principal we support the use of text taken verbatim by qualified standards-making bodies outside the United States from our standard once it is adopted. This use shall be at the sole discretion of the E1 committee. However, we cannot agree to the use of wording taken from the document while it is in a draft form."

Steve Terry moved that we respond to requests to use the text of the draft document with the above statement. Ted Paget seconded the motion. Unanimous by show of hands.

6.2.4.5.2 UL interpretations of 1573 as a rigging standard

There was a discussion of the problems created by UL inspectors interpreting UL 1573 to require labeling showing load ratings on connector strips. The labeling requirement is to show what the connector strip as a component in a rigging system can carry, but the interpretation would lead to labels that would seem to indicate the lineset rating -- which is not the same thing.

Steve Terry moved that the TSC direct Karl Ruling to write a pointed letter to UL with a copy to ANSI in regard to the interpretation UL 1573 to include evaluation of connector strips as rigging components. The letter should go to the chief engineer at UL, and emphasize that the rigging must be evaluated as a system. The letter shall tell them that we are working on a standard. Mike Garl seconded. Unanimous.

6.3 Public relations/marketing

Frank Stewart and Lori Rubinstein presented Beverly Inglesby's "Request for Proposals: Public relations Campaign and Editorial Writing Support" (TSC/98-0017). The consensus was that the RFP is excellent.

6.4 Plunging scoreboards liaison - Jay Glerum

Jay Glerum was not present to give a report. Ted Paget reported he has found in his work that plunging scoreboards is a serious concern.

7 New business

None.

8 Other business

8.1 Vari-Lite letter

Steve Terry read a short letter from Brooks Taylor of Vari-Lite in which Taylor reiterated that Vari-Lite at this time cannot participate in drafting standards and cannot participate in commenting on draft proposals due to their current patent litigation situation. Taylor wrote that Vari-Lite will review this decision at the conclusion of their lawsuit with High End Systems. "We do want to reaffirm our intent to make some Vari*Lite luminaires and controllers compatible with the adopted standard," wrote Taylor.

8.2 ESTA certification project.

Paul Vincent gave a short history of the ESTA Certification Project. A task group had been formed with Marge Romans as the chair. Marge Romans had spent a good portion of her time pursuing rumors that the State of California was going to require certification to identify the "qualified personnel" cited in many standards. Ken Vannice continued the story and explained that Gary Wilson apparently threw out the comment that if CA adopts a definition for "qualified person" then all jurisdictions would have to adopt it. But CA hasn't adopted a definition. Marge Romans was trying to see if CA would accept a certification program set up by ESTA. Romans has subsequently resigned from all her committee assignments in ESTA, citing an increased workload in her business.

Paul Vincent and Ken Vannice both spoke of their frustration with the lack of progress toward establishing a certification program.

Paul Vincent said that Cam McCormick will look at certification via USITT, and that he (Paul) would ask the USITT engineering commission to talk about it tonight at their meeting.

Vannice noted that the "Qualified Electrician Program - Working Group" meeting is scheduled from 12:15 p.m. to 1:35 p.m., Saturday March 21, 1998.

8.3 USITT standards activities

Mitch Hefter reported that standards activities in USITT are picking up. The Lighting Design Commission is revising its lighting graphics standard. If they want it to become an ANSI standard, it could be brought to ESTA.

9 Schedule for future meetings

The summer meeting will be in the Chicago area at the Clarion International at O'Hare on July 10, 11, and 12. Lori Rubinstein pointed out that since we have no established relationship with the hotel, we would have to pay if working groups cancel their meetings at last minute.

10 Adjournment

Steve Terry moved we adjourn. Ted Paget seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.