

Minutes
Technical Standards Committee
June 27, 1997
Dallas/Ft. Worth Marriott Hotel
Irving, TX

Chair: George Sabbi (BASH Theatrical Lighting)
Recording Secretary: Karl G. Ruling (ESTA)

In attendance: Frank Stewart (Associated Theatrical Contractors)
Bill Groener (Barbizon Electric)
Lori Rubinstein (ESTA, non-voting)
Mike Garl (James Thomas Engineering, Inc.)
Ted Paget (Jones and Philips)
Tony Douglas-Beveridge (PLASA)
Steve Carlson (Rosco/Entertainment Technology)
Mitch Hefter (Rosco/Entertainment Technology)
Colin Waters (TMB Associates)
Rodney F. Kaiser substituting for Jay O. Glerum (USITT)
Anne Valentino (Vari-Lite, Inc.)
Paul Vincent (Vincent Lighting Systems)

Visitors: Achim Russ (transtechnik)
Larry Schoeneman (Interesting Products)
Jim Fletcher (American Sling Co.)
Neil Huff (PRISM, Inc.)

1 Opening remarks

George Sabbi called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.
Lori Rubinstein went over the meeting and room schedules here at the Marriott.

2 Attendance and membership

Self introductions
The chair noted presence of a quorum (five or more). Rodney Kaiser attended as a substitute for Jay Glerum at USITT's request.

3 Approval of minutes from the previous meeting

Mitch Hefter moved, Colin Waters seconded accepting the minutes as written. Unanimous approval by show of hands

4 Call for patents and anti-trust statement

The Chair drew the group's attention to ESTA's positions on protected intellectual property and anti-trust activity:

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

Mike Garl moved the agenda be accepted. Colin Waters seconded the motion. Unanimous acceptance by show of hands.

6 Old business

6.1 Financial report [Frank Stewart]

6.1.1 Accounting of TSC documents sold and on-hand

Document 97-0013 provides a report of TSC documents sold and on hand. There was a discussion of the costs of Standards Watch (see page 2 of document 97-0013), which was judged worth the expense.

Discussion of when the Introduction to Modern Atmospheric Effects will be reprinted. About 600 on hand. Schoeneman said a new version may be sent to the TSC by the October meeting. By consensus it was decided that no reprinting needed to be done right now.

6.1.2 1997 contributions to date

\$57,045.00 (see document 97-0015 prepared by Frank Stewart)

6.2 Reports on fundraising by TSC members

Bill Groener reported that the official fund-raising campaign for this year is over. (See hand-corrected document 97-0012 for the details of the campaign's success.)

Bill Groener thanked all for their work on the campaign. George Sabbi thanked Bill Groener for his work.

6.3 Working group reports

6.3.1 Safe Practices and Loss Control

6.3.1.1 Position of the working group in the TSP and ESTA

Neil Huff noted that the interests and projects of the working group members do not fit well with the procedures and goals of the TSC. He recommended that the training program aspects of the group's work be put into an education committee, and that a safety committee in ESTA be established. The working group would then be disbanded.

George noted that the P&P requires the working group to disband itself. Suggested a letter ballot would be the best way.

The TSC has heard the report and is awaiting the action of the working group.

6.3.1.2 New chair for SP&LC

Tabled with the approval of Neil Huff

6.3.2 Photometrics

Ruling reported that the nutrition label task group has a rough draft of a standard. The IES testing procedure group, headed by Jody Good, is still planning to test some theatrical equipment per the old procedures to see how well they work. The task group explaining photometrics had no report.

6.3.3 Control Protocols

Steve Carlson reported that the analog control standard might be moved to go to public review at tomorrow's meeting.

In May the Fast Ethernet Cabling task group had a meeting in San Jose to work on the 100Mbit/sec wiring document, and had an opportunity to hear about the current state of development of gigabit Ethernet. The task group plans to draft a short recommended practice document based on EIA/TIA 568, parts A and B, Generic Wiring Practices For Commercial Buildings. They plan to follow these guidelines in the future.

Tomorrow Jon Ide will present a draft of recommendations for ACNP.

6.3.4 Fog and Smoke

Larry Schoeneman reported that the group must draft a report on the reports to submit to the TSC.

Tony Douglas-Beveridge will continue to keep us informed on Europe.

Resolved to send another letter on ESTA letterhead to Equity asking for their input and participation. Forward a copy of the fog book to them.

6.3.5 Rigging

Garl noted the progress on the manual rigging and flying people standards. Ruling mentioned the receipt of a document on powered flying.

The request was noted from PLASA to use the rigging documents as basis for BSI standards. The TSC agrees in principle, but details must be worked out.

6.4 Public Relations/Advertising

Lori Rubinstein reported on our attempts to advertise the publications. Our advertising is limited by the high cost of the advertising and the limited possible sales. Rubinstein reported the possibility of doing an ad swap with the TEA: they give us ads in Network, we give them ads in Protocol.

6.5 ANSI status report [Ruling]

What shall we charge for draft documents? Ruling was directed to set the price, but not below \$10. Free to working group members.

Ruling raised the question of splitting with USITT the income from standards that started in USITT's committees. A task group of Frank Stewart, Paul Vincent, Rodney Kaiser, and Mitch Hefter was formed to study the matter.

7 New business

Steve Carlson mentioned that Geoff Thompson (Bay Networks, a participant in the CP Working Group) says that whenever the IEEE sends a document out for review, there is a call for patents included. Carlson said he'd send Ruling a copy of the letter, since such a call for patents may be useful to include with our public review documents.

8 Other business

Colin Waters requested clarification of the Standards Watch article "You, Me, and the NEC." Waters asked how the TSC is planning to respond to the NEC proposals. Ruling noted that this was covered in the minutes of the last meeting, and that the article was a simple report of what the TSC had decided at that time it was going to do.

Colin Waters requested we discuss certification. It was noted that this is being discussed by the ESTA Board. Waters reported that there is a window of opportunity of 2 years because Los Angeles city will require certification in two years. Rodney Kaiser noted that Vancouver, BC is exploring stage technician certification.

9 Schedule for future meetings

Unofficial meeting at PLASA, Monday, September 8 at 9:00 a.m. in the Chelsea Room

LDI:

TSC meeting at 1:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 22.
Truss & Rigging will be at 7:00 p.m.
F&S will be Saturday, Oct. 25, 7:00 to 11:00 p.m.
CP all day Thursday, Oct 23, 9:00-6:00.
Photometrics -- Ruling must survey the working group.

Next meeting in Irving, Jan 23, 24, & 25.

10 Adjournment

Ted Paget moved to adjourn. Mike Garl seconded. Adjourned at 4:49 p.m.