

Minutes
Technical Standards Committee
Friday, 16 July 2004
13:00 - 17:00
Dallas/Ft. Worth Airport Marriott South
Ft. Worth, TX

Chairman: Paul Vincent; Vincent Lighting Systems; P

Recording secretary: Karl G. Ruling; ESTA

Members attending: Robin Crews; Wrightson, Johnson, Haddon & Williams, Inc., representing the Amer. Society of Theatre Consultants; A
Steve Terry; Electronic Theatre Controls, Inc.; P
Mitch Hefter; Entertainment Technology (Genlyte Thomas Group LLC); P
Edwin S. Kramer; I.A.T.S.E, Local 1; P
Larry Schoeneman; Interesting Products, Inc.; P
Ken Vannice; Colortran (Leviton Manufacturing Co., Inc.); P
Matthew Griffiths; PLASA; P
Ron Bonner; PLASA; A
Mark Engel; Rosco Laboratories; P (via telephone)
Frank Stewart; Specialty Tech Services; P
Rodney F. Kaiser; J.R. Clancy Inc., representing USITT ; P
Lori Rubinstein; ESTA; ex officio

Visitors: Bill Groener; Color Kinetics Inc.
Roger L. Lattin; IATSE Local 728
Bill Sapsis; Sapsis Rigging (arrived at 14:55)
Kent H. Jorgensen; IATSE Local 80

1 Opening remarks

Paul Vincent called the meeting to order at 13:07. He thanked all present for attending and for working on standards issues.

Vincent noted the several absences. Colin Waters was at the PALA trade show, Mike Wood was in Italy on a wedding anniversary vacation, and Mike Garl was not present because of family obligations. Bill Conner was attending other meetings, so Robin Crews would represent ASTC.

Vincent also announced that Beverly Inglesby would visit at about 13:30 to ask for suggestions on *Protocol*.

Vincent also offered the latest news on the health of the first chairman of the TSC, George Sabbi.

2 Attendance and membership

2.1 Taking attendance

The attendance sheet was circulated. Paul Vincent announced that a quorum was present.

2.2 Welcome to visitors

Vincent welcomed the visitors.

2.3 Voting body roster

The full voting body during this meeting, including those not present, was 15:

| Name | Company | Representing | Voting status |
|-------------------|---|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| William Conner | Schuler & Shook Inc. | Amer. Society of Theatre Consultants | P |
| Robin Crews | Wrightson, Johnson, Haddon & Williams, Inc. | Amer. Society of Theatre Consultants | A |
| Steve Terry | Electronic Theatre Controls | | P |
| Mitch Hefter | Entertainment Technology (Genlyte Thomas Group LLC) | | P |
| Edwin S. Kramer | I.A.T.S.E, Local 1 | | P |
| Larry Schoeneman | Interesting Products, Inc. | | P |
| Mike Garl | James Thomas Engineering, Inc. | | P |
| Ken Vannice | Colortran (Leviton Manufacturing Co., Inc.) | | P |
| Mike Wood | Mike Wood Consulting LLC | | P |
| Matthew Griffiths | PLASA | PLASA | P |
| Ron Bonner | PLASA | PLASA | A |
| Mark Engel | Rosco Laboratories | | P |
| Frank Stewart | Specialty Tech Services | | P |
| Colin Waters | TMB | | P |
| Rodney F. Kaiser | J.R. Clancy Inc. | USITT | P |
| Jay O. Glerum | Jay O. Glerum & Associates, Inc. | USITT | A |
| Paul Vincent | Vincent Lighting Systems | | P |
| Florian von Hofen | VPLT | VPLT | P |
| Eckart Steffens | SOUNDLIGHT | VPLT | A |

3 Approval of minutes from the previous meeting

Mitch Hefter moved that the draft minutes of the March 2004 meeting be approved as written. The motion was seconded. The motion was approved by a unanimous show of hands

4 Call for patents

Paul Vincent read the following aloud to the assembly:

"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."

No protected property issues were brought to the attention of the assembly.

5 Anti-trust statement

Paul Vincent read the following aloud to the assembly

"The ESTA Board of Directors and the leadership of this Technical Standards Committee will reject or nullify any actions that unlawfully restrain trade. Anyone who feels that such an action is being or has been taken is requested to bring that 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 ESTA president immediately.

"ESTA legal counsel has informed us that violations of the anti-trust laws can have serious consequences. Individuals engaged in certain unlawful conduct can be found criminally liable. An individual convicted of a criminal violation of the Sherman Act may be fined as much as \$100,000 and

imprisoned for up to three years. An easy to read pamphlet describing restraint of trade issues is available from the Technical Standards Manager."

Karl Ruling held up some pamphlets. No restraint of trade issues were brought to the attention of the assembly.

6 Approval of agenda

Paul Vincent asked for a short discussion of the new FTC law providing some protection for standards developers under new business

Eddie Kramer moved that the agenda with this addition be accepted. The motion was seconded. The motion was approved with a unanimous show of hands.

7 Distribution of ESTA committee contact information

Lori Rubinstein distributed the contact lists. Paul Vincent asked for any changes or additions. None were offered.

8 Old business

8.1 Financial reports

8.1.1 Treasurer's report

The report had been distributed. Frank Stewart said that we are on track for the budget this year. We have spent a little more than 50% of the funds for this year, which is acceptable, given where we are in the year.

Stewart pointed out that the 2005 budget has no funds budgeted for individual working groups. There have been no requests for several years, Stewart explained, so these funds have been moved elsewhere where needed. If money is needed for working group projects, it can be requested.

8.1.2 Status of contributions and pledges

The report on contributions was distributed. Lori Rubinstein noted the continuing trend of declining contributions.

8.1.3 Accounting of TSP documents sold and on-hand

Terry suggested that this report be deleted since the numbers are so inconsequential. No motion was made and no vote was taken.

There was a discussion of the distribution of the future revenues from E1.11. A number of possibilities were discussed. The consensus was that there needs to be some discussion with USITT about their expectations.

Steve Terry moved that we put all ESTA standards on the web and distribute them at no charge. The motion failed for lack of a second.

At this point Beverly Inglesby arrived. The meeting recessed for a few minutes to allow for a Post-it Note session about possible *Protocol* story ideas.

8.2 Working group reports

8.2.1 Camera Cranes

Kent Jorgensen reported that the working group had met in June.

8.2.1.1 Crane handbook public review

Jorgensen reported that the handbook had been modified at the meeting. Ruling said that if substantive changes had been made, it would need to be sent to another public review, since our

legal counsel has advised that our standards-drafting procedure be followed. At this time he had notes from Ed Clare stating what had happened at the meeting. He read aloud what the notes said:

KJ made a motion to forward the CCSH back to the ESTA TSC with one notation, in the area about lead weights (KJ will send to KR: it will read something like wash hands and dispose of gloves), JF seconded it and it passed unanimously. We discussed the use of lead weights extensively. It was the consensus of the group that the care and handling of lead weights be covered in more detail in the ANSI standard.

Ruling said that if a supermajority was present at the CCWG meeting, he'd take "forward the CCSH back to the ESTA TSC" as a motion for the next step to be taken, which would be a public review. If a supermajority was not present, a letter ballot would have to be issued to the working group.

8.2.1.3 BSR E1.12 camera crane standard progress

Jorgensen reported that there is a task group working on this. The project is being pressed forward by a South African company.

8.2.1.4 Future CCWG meetings and leadership

Jorgensen reported that the next CCWG meeting will be in late June of 2005 at the Cinegear Expo.

There was a discussion of the leadership of the working group. Steve Terry moved that Ed Clare and Kent Jorgensen serve as co-chairs of the Camera Cranes Working Group. The motion was seconded. The motion was passed by a unanimous show of hands.

8.2.2 Control Protocols

8.2.2.1 E1.11 (DMX) publication progress

Steve Terry moved that Mitch Hefter's response to Uldall-Hansen be accepted as the response to Uldall-Hansen's letter to Paul Vincent. The motion was seconded. The motion was passed by a unanimous show of hands. Ruling shall forward this response to Uldall-Hansen.

There was a brief discussion of the decision not to take E1.11 to the IEC. Hefter said that he will bring this to the working group again.

8.2.2.2 E1.27-x (Cabling) public review results and other document progress

Ruling reported that a revised draft standard and a set of suggested resolutions have been sent to the working group for consideration at this weekend's meeting.

8.2.2.3 E1.17 (ACN) resolution progress

Of the five documents, two are revised, reported Terry. The other three are well along, but not ready yet.

8.2.2.4 E1.20 (Remote Device Management) resolution progress

Ruling reported that a revised draft standard and a set of suggested resolutions have been sent to the working group for consideration at this weekend's meeting.

8.2.2.5 DMX recommended practice

There is some traction on moving this project forward, reported Steve Terry

8.2.3 Fog and Smoke

8.2.3.1 BSR E1.23 – General fog standard public review results

Ruling reported that a revised draft standard and a set of suggested resolutions have been sent to the working group for consideration at this weekend's meeting.

8.2.3.2 Guidance document for fire alarms and fire detection systems

Larry Schoeneman reported that he had some suggested wording to be introduced into the fire alarm standard. This doesn't guarantee it will be incorporated.

Ruling said he was working on an article about fog and fire alarms for *Protocol*. This might also be offered to other organizations and publications. Most of the problems with fog and fire alarms come from systems that don't comply with the basic recommendations in NFPA 5000 or NFPA 101; they use the allowed exceptions.

Schoeneman reported that the working group would probably cut back on its meeting schedule, since there are fewer projects now and they have less urgency than the projects did a few years ago.

8.2.4 Followspot position

Robin Crews reported that the working group had broken the writing task into parts and assigned them to sub-groups to fill out the outline for the standard. He estimated that a complete document would be available at the ETS meeting, but it would not be ready for public review at that time.

8.2.5 Photometrics

8.2.5.1 BSR E1.25 public review report

Ruling said that the 60-day public review was announced in the 4 June 2004 edition of ANSI's *Standards Action*, so it closes 3 August 2004.

8.2.5.2 Permission for a Chinese version of ANSI E1.9

Steve Terry moved that we approve the request to publish a Chinese translation of ANSI E1.9. The motion was seconded. The motion was approved by a unanimous show of hands.

There was a brief discussion of whether we wanted to continue to consider these requests on a case by case basis or simply give a blanket okay. The consensus was that we should consider these cases, case by case.

8.2.6 Rigging

8.2.6.1 E1.1 – Wire rope ladders reaffirmation

The TSC discussed Eddie Kramer's reasons for abstaining on the vote to accept the reaffirmation of ANSI E1.1. His objections to the motion offered on the Rigging Working Group ballot had not been specifically addressed by the Rigging Working Group yet.

Steve Terry moved that there was a procedural error with the TSC's vote to approve the reaffirmation of ANSI E1.1, and that the motion shall be considered again after the working group has drafted its reasons for rejecting Eddie Kramer's reasons supporting his no vote against the reaffirmation and the TSC has had an opportunity to review the reasons. The motion was seconded. The motion was approved by a unanimous show of hands, which was a supermajority of the TSC.

8.2.6.2 E1.2 – Aluminum towers and trusses revision

Ruling reported that the task group was working on suggested public review comment resolutions.

8.2.6.3 E1.4 – Manual Rigging Systems public review

Ruling said that the 60-day public review was announced in the 4 June 2004 edition of ANSI's *Standards Action*, so it closes 3 August 2004.

8.2.6.4 E1.6 – Powered Rigging Systems comment resolution

Ruling reported that a draft revised document had been sent to the working group, along with some draft resolutions, but already there had been some disagreements expressed by email. The working group would consider the draft resolutions and document at the Rigging Working Group's meeting, which was scheduled to follow this TSC meeting.

8.2.6.5 E1.8 – Speaker Enclosures Rigging Standard

Ruling reported that the working group would be reconsidering the resolutions and revised document from the last public review. It might vote to accept the standard as an ANS, or it might vote for another public review.

8.2.6.7 E1.15 – Manufacture, Assembly, and Use of Theatrical Boom & Base Assemblies comment resolution

Ruling reported that the working group was waiting for suggested resolutions from the task group.

8.2.6.8 E1.21 – Portable roof systems comment resolution

The resolution work is still on-going, reported Ruling.

8.2.6.9 E1.22 – Fire curtain systems comment resolutions

Robin Crews reported that they should have a document for consideration for a public review by the next meeting at ETS.

8.2.7 Electrical Power

8.2.7.1 E1.18 - A recommended practice for selection, installation, and use of portable feeder cable

Ken Vannice reported that the next draft of this document was expected to be presented at the ETS-LDI working group meeting in October.

8.2.7.2 E1.19 - A recommended practice for use of residual current devices in entertainment applications

Ken Vannice reported that more people had been found for writing the missing chapters of this document. A draft for consideration by the working group is expected at the January meeting.

8.2.7.3 E1.24, pin connector intermatability standard

Mitch Hefter said that the next draft would be presented to the working group at the ETS-LDI. He reported that he had gotten little feedback from the informal circulations of the document among the working group members.

8.2.8 Floors, BSR E1.26

Ron Bonner, who had been attending the Floors Working Group meeting, which had just ended, reported that Tim Hansen had presented a new version of the standard, which was discussed, and that Pete Happe had found a Disney report on floor testing, which also was presented to the working group. The working group will see how the information from the Disney document can fit into the draft BSR E1.26 document. Part of the meeting was also about the use of SI (the international system of metric units) in the standard and how these fit with American customary units.

8.3 Report on liaisons and news from other industry groups

8.3.1 PLASA

8.3.1.1 Reorganization of PLASA Standards Office and services

Steve Terry said that a picture is emerging in the United States of the direction of PLASA, but that the picture is murky. He asked for clarification from PLASA's representatives of the plan for the reorganization of the PLASA Standards Office.

Matthew Griffiths explained that PLASA has no intention of recreating an ESTA TSC in the UK, but that he felt that there had to be an interest started in Europe in standards work. There had been negligible response to the announcement in *Standards News* of an initiative to write consensus documents in the UK. PLASA has no intention of recreating the TSP program, he reiterated. The process they are pursuing has been pitched as simpler than our process because this is necessary to make the process seem palatable to Europeans, who see our process as too cumbersome.

Griffiths was challenged on this contention of there being a short-cut method. There is no shortcut for voluntarily developed consensus standards, Terry argued.

Bonner said that the PLASA membership voted to create a standards organization, but they have specifically said that they "don't want the ANSI bit."

Griffiths reiterated PLASA's stated aim of working with ESTA and the TSP.

8.3.1.2 Other PLASA news

None.

8.3.2 USITT news

None.

8.3.3 ASTC news

None, reported Robin Crews.

8.3.4 VPLT news

There was no report from VPLT.

8.3.5 UL liaison

Ken Vannice said that UL's relationship with the entertainment industry had gotten pretty bad. The control standards were given to the luminaire standards person, who is not helpful.

Steve Terry reported that ETC had launched a formal complaint with UL. In response, UL reassigned the control standards to the person who has worked well with the industry in the past. UL now has a budget for outside group participation, said Terry, and in 2005 will appoint someone to the EPWG.

Ken Vannice said that he has successfully argued that UL will fail its mission statement (which affects ISO 9000 accreditation) if UL won't look at what its customers expect. UL is not meeting or exceeding the expectations of their customers, which is what its mission statement says it will do.

Ken Vannice asked UL for meetings at the trade shows, so they are working on having one either before or after ETS. [Note; Subsequent to this meeting, UL announced that it was not having a meeting in conjunction with the ETS-LDI trade show.]

8.3.6 CANENA liaison

Vannice reported that there was no news. The CANENA meeting is two weeks from now. There is no budget left for travel later this year.

8.3.7 NFPA liaison

8.3.7.1 NFPA 70 (NEC)

Mitch Hefter reported that the new version is to be considered by the NFPA Standards Council.

8.3.7.2 NFPA 101 (Life Safety Code) and 5000 (building code)

Karl Ruling reported that a series of NFPA meetings is scheduled for early October on these standards.

8.3.7.3 NFPA 1126 (close pyro) and 160 (flame effects)

Larry Schoeneman noted again that he has been asked to forward our concerns about fire alarms and fog (and also pyro smoke) to the NFPA technical committee dealing with the fire alarm standard.

8.3.7.4 NFPA 80

Bill Conner was not present. There was no report.

8.3.8 Other liaisons

8.3.8.1 JASST has been admitted to the World ETF, reported Lori Rubinstein. They will have their own booth at ETS-LDI. The consensus of the group was that we should invite them to the next TSC meeting

8.3.8.2 In regard to the ETCP, Rubinstein reported that we have a signed contract with a firm for the job task analysis for arena and theatre rigging. The ETCP has topped \$500,000 in fundraising.

8.4 Review of action items from last meeting not covered above

Karl Ruling needs to write the letters to Carson and Carlson.

9 New Business

The new FTC law offering some protection against claims of restraint of trade was discussed. Lori Rubinstein outlined some of our concerns:

- Will registering under the law put us under additional, negative FTC scrutiny?
- How onerous is the filing process?
- What is the reporting requirement and how onerous is it?

Our lawyer, David Saltiel, is reviewing the matter, and we will file within the 90-day safe harbor period, if this is what he recommends., Rubinstein reported.

No one voiced any reason not to proceed.

10 Other business

Eddie Kramer moved that the TSC thank Lynn Kennedy for her fine work on *Protocol* and wish her well on her future endeavors. The motion was seconded. The motion was passed by a unanimous show of hands.

11 Schedule for future meetings

Rubinstein reminded people of the high cost of meetings at Harrah's Las Vegas Casino and Hotel. The minimum charge for a room is \$400, and the cancellation fees range from 25% to 100% of the room charge. Therefore, meetings that are unlikely to happen should be cancelled sooner rather than later.

The next TSC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 20 October 2004, from 13:00 to 17:00.

12 Adjournment

Steve Terry moved that the meeting adjourn. The motion was seconded. The motion was approved by a show of hands. Paul Vincent declared the meeting adjourned at 16:45.

TSC Membership

| Name | Company | Representing | Voting status |
|-------------------|---|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| William Conner | Schuler & Shook Inc. | Amer. Society of Theatre Consultants | P |
| Robin Crews | Wrightson, Johnson, Haddon & Williams, Inc. | Amer. Society of Theatre Consultants | A |
| Steve Terry | Electronic Theatre Controls, Inc. | | P |
| Mitch Heffer | Entertainment Technology (Genlyte Thomas Group) | | P |
| Edwin S. Kramer | I.A.T.S.E, Local 1 | | P |
| Larry Schoeneman | Interesting Products, Inc. | | P |
| Mike Garl | James Thomas Engineering, Inc. | | P |
| Ken Vannice | Colortran (Leviton Manufacturing Co., Inc.) | | P |
| Mike Wood | Mike Wood Consulting LLC | | P |
| Matthew Griffiths | PLASA | PLASA | P |
| Ron Bonner | PLASA | PLASA | A |
| Mark Engel | Rosco Laboratories | | P |
| Frank Stewart | Specialty Tech Services | | P |
| Colin Waters | TMB | | P |
| Rodney F. Kaiser | J.R. Clancy Inc. | USITT | P |
| Jay O. Glerum | Jay O. Glerum & Associates, Inc. | USITT | A |
| Paul Vincent | Vincent Lighting Systems | | P |
| Florian von Hofen | VPLT | VPLT | P |
| Eckart Steffens | SOUNDLIGHT | VPLT | A |