

Minutes
Technical Standards Committee
Wednesday, 19 November 2003
Sheraton World Resort
Orlando, FL

Chairman: Paul Vincent; Vincent Lighting Systems; principal

Recording secretary: Karl G. Ruling; ESTA

Members attending: William Conner; Schuler & Shook Inc., representing the Amer. Society of Theatre Consultants; principal
Robin Crews; Wrightson, Johnson, Haddon & Williams, Inc., representing the Amer. Society of Theatre Consultants; alternate
Steve Terry; Electronic Theatre Controls; principal
Mitch Hefter; Entertainment Technology (Genlyte Thomas Group LLC); principal
Mike Wood; High End Systems Inc.; principal
Edwin S. Kramer; I.A.T.S.E, Local 1; principal
Larry Schoeneman; Interesting Products, Inc.; principal
Mike Garl; James Thomas Engineering, Inc.; principal
Ken Vannice; Colortran (Leviton Manufacturing Co., Inc.); principal
Matthew Griffiths; PLASA; principal
Mark Engel; Rosco Laboratories; principal
Frank Stewart; Specialty Tech Services; principal
Colin Waters; TMB; principal
Rodney F. Kaiser; J.R. Clancy Inc., representing USITT; principal
Eckart Steffens; SOUNDLIGHT, representing VPLT; alternate
Lori Rubinstein; ESTA; ex officio

Visitors: Roger L. Lattin; IATSE Local 728
Ron Bonner; PLASA
James Eade; PLASA
Ruth Rossington; PLASA
David Saltiel; Bell, Boyd and Lloyd (arrived late)

1 Opening remarks

Paul Vincent called the meeting to order at 13:10. He noted that people are very busy, particularly with an accompanying trade show, and he thanked people for taking time out of their schedules to support our standards work.

2 Attendance and membership

2.1 Taking attendance

An attendance sign-in sheet was circulated. Members and visitors were instructed to sign-in.

Paul Vincent noted that a quorum was present.

2.2 Welcome to visitors

Vincent welcomed the visitors and asked for self-introductions.

The voting membership during this meeting, including those not present, was:

Name	Company	Representing	Voting status
William Conner	Schuler & Shook Inc.	ASTC	P
Robin Crews	Wrightson, Johnson, Haddon & Williams, Inc.	ASTC	A
Steve Terry	Electronic Theatre Controls		P
Mitch Hefter	Entertainment Technology		P
Mike Wood	High End Systems Inc.		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		P
Matthew Griffiths	PLASA	PLASA	P
Tony Douglas-Beveridge	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
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3 Approval of minutes from the previous meeting

Mitch Hefter moved that the minutes be approved as written. The motion was seconded. The motion was approved with a unanimous show of hands.

4 Call for patents

The following statement was read aloud by Paul Vincent:

"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."

Mike Wood reported that there are four new Belliveau patents that might have an affect on RDM. High End has a license arrangement with Richard Belliveau, so High End would be involved as a conduit to obtain assurances that the patents would be licensed to anyone needing to use them to implement BSR E1.20 for a reasonable fee on a non-prejudicial basis. The patents are:

United States Patent 6,570,348 May 27, 2003
Apparatus for digital communications with multiparameter light fixtures

United States Patent 6,545,586 April 8, 2003
Method and apparatus for establishing and using hierarchy among remotely controllable theatre devices

United States Patent 6,459,217 October 1, 2002
Method and apparatus for digital communications with multiparameter light fixtures

United States Patent 6,331,756 December 18, 2001
Method and apparatus for digital communications with multiparameter light fixtures

5 Anti-trust statement

The following was read aloud by Paul Vincent:

"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 to demonstrate their availability.

6 Approval of agenda

Modifications were offered to the agenda. Mike Garl moved that the modified agenda be approved. The motion was seconded. The motion was accepted with a unanimous voice vote.

7 Distribution of ESTA committee contact information

Mitch Hefter corrected his fax number. Mike Wood offered a number for his direct phone line.

8 Old business

8.1 Financial reports

8.1.1 Treasurer's report

Frank Stewart presented his report. Paul Vincent asked if we might expect any more major expenses. Frank Stewart says that this month would bring our heaviest expenses, but not out of line from what is expected.

8.1.2 Status of contributions and pledges

Lori Rubinstein reported that a significant donation from Altman had arrived, but that it wasn't on the report because it came in after the sheet was printed.

Paul Vincent asked if we should continue to count on our major donors to continue at the current levels. That is, should Lori continue to send out invoices? The consensus from the major donors who are also members of the TSC and who were present at the table was Yes.

8.1.3 Accounting of TSP documents sold and on-hand

Lori Rubinstein noted that there had not been many sales, but we haven't developed a new standard that is sold, rather than given away, in some time.

8.2 Working group reports

8.2.1 Camera Cranes

8.2.1.1 Report of October 6 meeting

Ruling reported that the working group had had a meeting, as requested. It was not within the time frame specified, but it was a good faith effort to meet the requirements. Ruling now has a short email and some notes from Ed Clare that he needs to turn into official draft minutes.

8.2.1.2 Handbook

David Saltiel urged the TSC to follow the formal procedures in developing this document. It is a guidance document, designed to prevent serious or life-threatening injuries. Shortcuts should not be taken with such a document.

Ruling noted that our procedures require a letter ballot, but he said he would like to offer some words of encouragement. Steve Terry moved that Ruling send an encouraging statement, noting that our legal counsel is requiring us to take a hard stance. The motion was seconded. The motion was approved by a unanimous show of hands. A straw poll showed that the TSC will approve the draft document for a public review if the working group votes for the public review.

8.2.1.3 BSR E1.12

Ruling reported that a draft document covering part of the scope of the project has been written.

Paul Vincent recommended that we track the progress of this project closely.

8.2.2 Control Protocols

8.2.2.1 E1.11 (DMX)

Mitch Hefter reported that the public review had closed and given the working group many comments to resolve.

8.2.2.2 Cabling

Steve Terry described this project and noted that the working group has a first draft of a standard for portable DMX512/E1.11 cabling.

8.2.2.3 E1.17 (ACN)

Terry noted that the document is in public review, and that review closes December 9th.

8.2.2.4 E1.20 (Remote Device Management)

Terry noted that the document is in public review, and that review closes December 9th.

8.2.2.5 ACN-RDM ESTA Connectivity Pavilion

Terry reported that there are great hopes for a successful demo with lots of manufacturers' products. Preparations are proceeding well.

8.2.3 Fog and Smoke

8.2.3.1 BSR E1.23 – General fog standard

Larry Schoeneman reported that the document is getting bigger and looking more like a real standard. The task group is now making sure it addresses permanent installations.

8.2.3.2 Guidance document for fire alarms and fire detection systems

Schoeneman reported that Greg Meeh has been doing some interesting research and passing along information to us.

8.2.3.3 Opera America proposal

Schoeneman reported that Opera America has asked Brad Dittmer for someone to do a four-hour session on fog and the fog testing program. Vincent suggested that we should coordinate so that ESTA promotional material is sent. The consensus of the TSC was that Karl Ruling should be the person to do the presentation.

8.2.4 Photometrics

Ruling reported that the BSR E1.25 document is in public review, and that review closes December 9th. He mentioned possible revisions to ANSI E1.9

8.2.5 Rigging

8.2.5.1 E1.2 – Aluminum towers and trusses revision

Mike Garl reported that the working group has a draft set of comment resolutions and a revised document to consider at the forthcoming Rigging Working Group meeting.

8.2.5.2 E1.4 – Manual Rigging Systems

Garl reported that the document was in public review until very recently. The comments have not yet been collated.

8.2.5.3 E1.6 – Powered Rigging Systems

Garl said that the task group is working on comment resolutions.

8.2.5.4 E1.7 – Recommended Practice for Flying Performers

Garl reported that draft comment resolutions and a revised document have been sent to the working group. Another public review will be needed.

8.2.5.5 E1.8 – Speaker Enclosures for Rigging Standard

Garl reported that the document was in public review until very recently. The comments have not yet been collated.

Michael Akrep's public review comments that attack the balance of the task group were discussed. Ruling reported that Saltiel had said that Akrep's comments are not a complaint at this point. They are simply comments. Vincent said that the Akrep letter is a working group issue right now, since it is simply a set of comments. If Akrep files a complaint, his comments might become an issue for the TSC, but that would be later, if ever.

8.2.5.6 E1.15 – Manufacture, Assembly, and Use of Theatrical Boom & Base Assemblies

Ruling explained how one set of resolutions had been approved, but that they didn't match the draft standard sent to the working group. The task group now has developed another set of resolutions that match what is in the new draft document. The working group now must decide if it wants to set aside its approval of the original resolutions.

8.2.5.7 E1.21 – Portable roof systems

Garl reported that a first draft has been sent to the rigging working group for consideration of a public review.

8.2.5.8 E1.22 – Fire curtain systems

Bill Conner reported that the task group is working on resolving public review comments.

8.2.5.9 Chain hoist control connectors

Garl reported that the task group is refining a scope statement for some sort of project to ensure compatibility and safety with hoist control connectors.

8.2.5.10 E1.1

Garl reported that ANSI E1.1-1999 is approaching its fifth birthday, and must be reaffirmed, revised, or withdrawn at that time.

8.2.6 Electrical Power

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

Ken Vannice reported that the document is now 45 pages long and growing. It is becoming immense. Eddie Kramer, who is one of the task group leaders, reported that two sections need a lot of work, but he has been busy and it hasn't advanced since the last meeting.

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

Vannice reported that the project has gotten off course because of concerns about GFCI devices for which there are no listed products. Bob Luther has taken over managing the project and has been doing a lot of work.

8.2.6.3 EMC task group (including EMC Workshops/LFEIC report)

Vannice reported that there are two things going on:

1) IEC 61000-3-12 We need to be aware of this document, and to make comments to Vannice, who will send them to Ed Yandek. The comments are due by January 16, 2004.

2) We've done our best to keep 61000-3-2 out of North America, but many people were afraid that the Canadian standards council was going to consider this. Industry advocates have been successful in getting the Canadian Standards Council to drop the idea.

8.2.6.4 E1.24, pin connector intermateability standard

The task group is making progress, said Mitch Hefter. SI (metric) will be used, as will US customary units. The multiple sets of measurements will be handled with tables, rather than with additional drawings or additional data fields in the drawings.

8.2.6.5 CANENA

Vannice reported on CANENA, which is a vehicle for North American standards organizations to work together and coordinate standards. There are two standards for single-pole connectors being worked on now: a safety standard and a configuration standard. Data has been received for the dimensions of Camlok 16-, 15-, and 18-series, Mole-pin, and some other companies.

8.2.7 Floors, BSR E1.26

Tim Hansen reported that the working group had met this morning (November 19). The group hopes to have a draft of BSR E1.26 for the January meeting.

The working group is continuing research on slip resistance. Rake has been tabled for now. The group can't define a "racked stage." At what point does being off-level become significant enough to call a stage a "raked stage?"

8.3 Report on liaisons to other industry groups

8.3.1 PLASA/ESTA Technical Standards Program partnership

Matthew Griffiths reported that PLASA needs to do more ground work in Europe for putting in a structure to build consensus. So, no thank you for now, but perhaps in a year or so. PLASA felt that they are ill prepared at this time to work as real partners in the program.

8.3.2 UL

Ruling reported that he'd applied for membership representing ESTA on UL 1640's STP.

8.3.3 NFPA

Schoeneman reported that the revision cycles for 160 and 1126 have been pushed up. There is a task group to coordinate NFPA 101 and NFPA 5000 with these standards.

Mitch Hefter asked that all the alliances be listed in detail in the agenda. Ruling agreed.

8.3.4 JASST – Japan Association of the Safety Staging Technology

Lori Rubinstein reported on the visit to the ESTA office by representatives from the group. A further meeting is scheduled for Saturday during the ETS-LDI show.

8.4 Discussion forums

Lori Rubinstein reported that the forums are not used very much. Signing up seems to mystify people, but it is easy to do.

8.5 Review of action items from last meeting not covered above

None.

9 New Business

Vannice reported on the Certification Council. The Council has now started on its financial program and publicity campaign. It has very aggressive goals.

Lori Rubinstein enumerated the parties now committed to the Council. It is a great and diverse group, including CITT, IATSE, AMPTP, TEA, Clear Channel Entertainment. This will help with the fundraising. We need \$750,000, and we already have \$100,000 pledged before we start the formal fund-raising campaign.

Rubinstein explained that the \$750,000 is for the development of the program, largely for psychometricians who develop the exam. After it is developed, the program is supposed to be self-supporting. It must be a legally defensible program.

10 Other business

10.1 Replacement for Ted Paget

Ted Paget had recently resignation, so there was a discussion of Paget's previous role. Mike Wood said that the ASTC liaison role has been filled by Bill Conner and Robin Crews. There was no further action on this item.

10.2 New project request form

Eddie Kramer moved that the document offered by Mike Wood be accepted. The motion was seconded. There was extensive discussion. Mike Garl moved that the matter be tabled until the next meeting. The motion was seconded. The motion was approved by a unanimous show of hands.

11 Schedule for future meetings

There was a discussion of changes to the schedules for the working groups. The next TSC meeting was set as being on Friday, 16 January 2004, from 13:00 to 17:00.

12 Adjournment

Mitch Hefter moved that the meeting adjourn. The motion was seconded. The motion was approved on a unanimous voice vote. Paul Vincent declared the meeting adjourned at 16:25.

Technical Standards Committee Membership and Contact Information as of 2003-12-5

Name	Company	Representing (This is the sort field.)	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	Electronic Theatre Controls, Inc.	P
Mitch Hefter	Entertainment Technology	Genlyte Thomas Group LLC	P
Mike Wood	High End Systems Inc.	High End Systems Inc.	P
Edwin S. Kramer	I.A.T.S.E., Local 1	I.A.T.S.E. Local 1	P
Larry Schoeneman	Interesting Products, Inc.	Interesting Products, Inc.	P
Mike Garl	James Thomas Engineering, Inc.	James Thomas Engineering, Inc.	P
Ken Vannice	Colortran	Leviton Manufacturing Co., Inc.	P
Tony Douglas-Beveridge	PLASA	PLASA	A
Matthew Griffiths	PLASA	PLASA	P
Mark Engel	Rosco Laboratories	Rosco Laboratories	P
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Rodney F. Kaiser	J.R. Clancy Inc.	USITT	P
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Paul Vincent	Vincent Lighting Systems	Vincent Lighting Systems	P
Florian von Hofen	VPLT	VPLT	P
Eckart Steffens	SOUNDLIGHT	VPLT	A