

**Minutes**  
**Floors Working Group**  
Wednesday, 19 November 2003  
Sheraton World Resort  
Orlando, Florida

**Chairman:** Tim Hansen; Oasis Stage Werks; P; MP

**Recording secretary:** Karl G. Ruling; ESTA

**Members attending:** Keith Sklar; Actors' Equity Association; O; G (by phone)  
Bob Dagger; American Harlequin Corp. (Harlequin Corporation); P; MP  
Ron Bonner; PLASA; P; G  
Tracey Cosgrove; Rosco Laboratories; P; MP  
Jerry Gorrell; Theatre Safety Programs; P; U  
Richard D. Thompson; Thompson Associates; P; G  
Pete Happe; Walt Disney Imagineering (the Walt Disney Company); P; U

Key to codes	O	Observer, non-voting	G	General interest
	P	Principal voting on behalf of an organization or company	U	User of floors or flooring products
	A	Alternate voting member representing an organization or company	MP	Mass-market producer
	I	Individual voting member representing no entity other than him or herself	CP	Custom-market producer
			DR	Dealer or rental company

There were no visitors.

**1 Opening Remarks**

Tim Hansen called the meeting to order at 8:05 and welcomed all.

**2 Attendance and Membership**

A red attendance sheet was circulated and attendees were instructed to sign in and to note any changes in their contact information.

**2.1 Introduction of those present**

Hansen invited those present and on the phone to introduce themselves.

**2.2 Call for quorum**

Hansen noted that a quorum was present, so the working group could conduct business.

**2.3 Requirements for membership**

Hansen reminded those present that membership is open to all parties who are affected by the work of the group; membership in ESTA is not a requirement. Voting members are required to attend meetings. Any principal member and alternate that both miss three consecutive meetings will have their membership status changed to observer. This action will be taken as the last item of business at the third missed meeting and will be recorded in the minutes of that meeting.

**2.4 Approval of new members**

Tim Hansen read the two applications received:

Steve Rust of Sachs Morgan Studio applied as an alternate in the general interest category, but there was no application from anyone at Sachs Morgan applying as a principal, and he was not present for the meeting. Tim Hansen suggested that the appropriate voting status for someone applying but not attending be "observer."

Tim Williamson of the Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium, a facility owned and operated by the Alberta provincial government, applied as an observer in the user interest category.

Pete Happe moved that Rust and Williamson be accepted as observers. The motion was seconded. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

The full consensus body for the working group during this meeting, including those not present, was:

Name	Company	Representing	Voting status	Interest category				
				MP	CP	U	G	DR
Bob Dagger	American Harlequin Corp.	Harlequin Corporation	P	1				0
Tim Hansen	Oasis Stage Werks	Oasis Stage Werks	P	1				0
Gary Justesen	Oasis Stage Werks	Oasis Stage Werks	A					0
Ron Bonner	PLASA	PLASA	P				1	0
Tracey Cosgrove	Rosco Laboratories	Rosco Laboratories	P	1				0
Jerry Gorrell	Theatre Safety Programs	Theatre Safety Programs	P			1		0
Richard D. Thompson	Thompson Associates	Thompson Associates	P				1	0
Pete Happe	Walt Disney Imagineering	Walt Disney Company	P			1		0
				3	0	2	2	0

### 3 Approval of the minutes from the previous meeting

The group discussed the draft minutes document Floors/2003-8004. Richard Thompson offered changes which were recorded in the amended minutes document Floors/2003-8004r1. Jerry Gorrell moved that the amended minutes be accepted. The motion was seconded. The motion was approved with a unanimous voice vote.

## 4 ESTA Declarations

### 4.1 Anti-trust statement

The following statement was read aloud by the chairman Tim Hansen

"The ESTA Board of Directors, the Technical Standards Committee and the leadership of this Working Group 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 action in restraint of trade have been taken and not properly annulled is requested to notify the TSC (chairs), or the ESTA President immediately.

"ESTA legal counsel has informed us that violations of the antitrust 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 of the pamphlets. No restraint of trade issues were brought to the attention of the assembly.

### 4.2 Call for Patents

The following statement was read aloud by the chairman Tim Hansen

"ESTA intends not to publish any 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 and copyright disclosures to implement its intent. ESTA does not conduct patent or copyright searches and does not warrant that its programs contain no protected intellectual property."

"In keeping with the open disclosures policy, I ask if anyone present wishes to notify the working group of the existence of a patent that might protect material in a standard being developed by the working group. You need not be the holder of the patent or copyright to notify the working group of its existence."

No patents or other intellectual property issues were brought to the attention of the assembly.

## **5 Approval of Agenda**

Richard Thompson moved that the draft agenda be accepted. The motion was seconded. the motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

## **6 Old Business**

### **6.1 Reports**

#### **6.1.1 Jerry Gorrell's report on athletic shoe terminology and tests.**

Gorrell reported that the Phoenix Suns are not doing well, so the front office has not been answering the phone. He will try a more circuitous route. He suspects that they have not returned calls because they have no standard and don't want to discuss what may be a lack of controls for an obvious risk to workers.

#### **6.1.2 Jerry Gorrell's report on the purchase of *Health and Fitness Facility Guidelines***

Gorrell reported that he has bought the book, and will copy some of the relevant material for use by the working group. There is little information in the book on floors, but there is lots of information about setting up and staffing a fitness center. He will send the relevant text to Karl for distribution.

#### **6.1.3 Pete Happe's report on obtaining Roger Morgan's booklet on floors**

Pete Happe reported that the book turns out have to been by another author. It's a booklet about the floor that was designed for Julliard. It is referenced in the UK dance floor book.

Happe said he had been hoping that Butch Flannery would attend this Floors Working Group meeting. Flannery works in the Live Show Division at Walt Disney World and is in the process of compiling all the data they have on all their stage floors. Happe suspects that the data will be like the data in the last page of the UK dance book. As he understands it, Disney has both the Berlin and Stuttgart virtual athletes for testing floors. The floors are also being tested for dry and wet coefficients of friction with an "English Machine" (officially known as a variable incidence tribometer, but called the English Machine because it is built by William English).

Hansen says he receives English's newsletter by email. He said that the machine is available for rent. The results with the machines, of course, vary dependent on the two surfaces. This lead to a discussion of various foot wear, including bare feet, and the floor surface.

#### **6.1.4 Keith Sklar's report on finding the Actors' Equity informational sheet entitled "Specifications for Dance Floor Placed Over Structural Slab or Framing"**

Paul Gugliotti was the architect who designed the Julliard floor, reported Sklar. The Equity document turns out to be the "Roger Morgan's booklet" of the previous report.

Sklar reported that the Kennedy Center, New York State Theatre, and Julliard floors were tested in the Fall of 1970 with a Vibropac machine from the Vibration Eliminator Company. There was a New York Times article about the testing, written by Anna Kisselgoff and dated Nov. 19, 1970. "Dancers test stage flooring for Kennedy Center" is title. The testing also involved subjective tests by dancers.

#### **6.1.5 Keith brought up "the language of the Disney Rule Book," and the unfinished business of the last meeting:**

Keith Sklar commented that there have been some correspondence between Equity and various producers, but no empirical criteria exist for specifying a performance floor. He stated that there are clauses inserted into contracts for instance, to prohibit the use of sand on painted floor surfaces, etc. However, Sklar felt that Equity does not mandate the use of a Slip test and possibly other entities require it to be used. Keith Sklar offered to research the history of the clause in the Disney contract and will report back to the WG at the November meeting. Pete Happe confirmed that he

would continue his research and locate the clause and determine how Disney officials in Florida are implementing it.

Sklar pointed out that on the Equity website in the document library one can find the Walt Disney World Rule Book, 24F, number 5, dance floors. There is a rule number 4 that says there must not be grit used on the floors to aid traction. This was negotiated on October 1, 2000.

Sklar stressed that the Walt Disney World contract is entirely different from the other 40 contracts Equity has world-wide. The anti-grit and anti-nails and screws language was to deal with the debris left over from one of the stunt shows. The prohibitions against grit being used on ladders was because gritted paint had been used them and was found to rip the hands of actors.

## **6.2 BSR E1.26, Entertainment Technology – Recommended testing methods and values for shock absorption of floors used in live performance venues**

Tim Hansen said he has the information, but that he needs help writing the first draft. Jerry Gorrell and Pete Happe volunteered to help.

There was a discussion of whether the DIN standard that specifies the Stuttgart and Berlin athletes can be referenced. Karl Ruling said it could. There was a discussion of whether the PLASA translation of it could be used, since it is not a DIN-approved translation. Ruling suggested that as long as the translation says what we want it to say, we can use the words. The facts of a specification are not copyrightable.

There was a discussion of the scope of this standard, and a revisiting of why this standard doesn't deal with slip and rake at this time. Tim Hansen explained the history of this project and why it is defined as it is.

## **7 New Business**

None.

## **8 Other Business**

Richard Thompson reported on a flooring material he likes, which is made by Renew Resources, a Canadian company. It is made of recycled plastic. Jerry Gorrell says his facility is also investigating using it. He says there are flammability issues that he wants to investigate.

Richard Thompson reported that there is an American National Standard being developed for casters and wheels.

## **9 Schedule for Future Meetings**

Hansen announced that the next meeting is scheduled for Saturday morning, 8:00 to noon, January 17. **[NOTE THAT THE MEETING TIME HAS BEEN CHANGED SINCE THIS ANNOUNCEMENT. THE MEETING IS NOW SCHEDULED FOR FRIDAY, 16 JANUARY 2004, FROM 13:00 TO 17:00.]**

The action items were reviewed:

1. Thompson said he will try to get a response from Martin Moore about the USITT study. He will also get more specific information on Winship Hall at UT Austin.
2. Happe will have Disney test results.
3. Hansen will have a first draft of BSR E1.26 for the next meeting.
4. Keith Sklar will find more information on the AGMA symposium for the next meeting. He will get a copy of the NY Times article mentioned during this meeting.

Tim Hansen distributed ESTA bucks to the attendees.

## **10 Changes to observer status due to lack of attendance**

No voting members are subject to demotion due to lack of attendance at this time

**11 Adjournment**

Richard Thompson moved that the meeting adjourn. The motion was seconded. The motion was approved with a voice vote. Hansen declared the meeting adjourned at 09:54.

## Floors Working Group Membership and Contact Data as of 2003-12-5

Name	Company	Representing (This is the sort field.)	Voting status	Int. cat.
Keith Sklar	Actors' Equity Association	Actors' Equity Association	O	G
Ken Greenwood	Actors' Equity Association	Actors' Equity Association	O	G
Tim Williamson	Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium	Alberta Government	O	U
Fred Allen	Fred Allen & Associates	Fred Allen & Associates	O	U
Bob Dagger	American Harlequin Corp.	Harlequin Corporation	P	MP
Edward Paget	Jones & Phillips Associates, Inc.	Jones & Phillips Associates, Inc.	O	G
Christopher Purpura	Jones & Phillips Associates, Inc.	Jones & Phillips Associates, Inc.	O	G
Nevin Kleege	Kleege Industries	Kleege Industries	O	G
Seth Popper	League of American Theatres and Producers, Inc.	League of American Theatres and Producers, Inc.	O	G
Gary Justesen	Oasis Stage Werks	Oasis Stage Werks	A	MP
Tim Hansen	Oasis Stage Werks	Oasis Stage Werks	P	MP
Ron Bonner	PLASA	PLASA	P	G
Tracey Cosgrove	Rosco Laboratories	Rosco Laboratories	P	MP
Steve Rust	Sachs Morgan Studio	Sachs Morgan Studio	O	G
Robert Barbagallo	Solotech Inc.	Solotech Inc.	O	DR
Jerry Gorrell	Theatre Safety Programs	Theatre Safety Programs	P	U
Richard D. Thompson	Thompson Associates	Thompson Associates	P	G
Pete Happe	Walt Disney Imagineering	Walt Disney Company	P	U
Mark Elliott	Walt Disney Company	Walt Disney Company	O	U
Steven Wiese	Wenger Corp.	Wenger Corp.	O	MP

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