

Minutes
Followspot Position Working Group Meeting
Thursday, 19 January 2006
Dallas/Ft. Worth Airport Marriott South
Ft. Worth, Texas

Presiding chairmen: Robin Crews; Wrightson, Johnson, Haddon & Williams, Inc.; P; G
Jack Schmidt; Special Lighting Solutions; Ballantyne of Omaha, Inc.; P; MP

Recording secretary: Karl G. Ruling; ESTA

Members attending:

Chip Purchase; Jones Hall (Foundation for Jones Hall); P; U
Edwin S. Kramer; I.A.T.S.E. Local 1; P; U
Richard Logothetis; Lycian Stage Lighting; P; MP
Richard J. Nix; Performance Systems Integration; O; G
Fred Lindauer; Robert Juliat USA (Robert Juliat SA); P; MP
Shawn Nolan; Entertainment Structures Group (Steven Schafer Associates); P; G
Jerry Gorrell; Theatre Safety Programs; O; U
William L. Maiman; I; G

1 Opening remarks

Robin Crews and Jack Schmidt both presided, alternating duties.

The meeting was called to order by Robin Crews at 19:07. He asked those assembled to turn off or silence cell phones.

2 Patent and Anti-Trust statements

2.1 Patent statement

The following statement was read aloud to the assembly by Robin Crews:

"ESTA intends not to publish any standard that contains protected intellectual property, unless that information 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 standards contain no protected intellectual property.

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

No patent or copyright issues were brought to the attention of the assembly.

2.2 Anti-trust statement

The following statement was read aloud to the assembly by Jack Schmidt:

"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 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 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 \$1,000,000 and imprisoned for up to ten years. An easy to read pamphlet describing restraint of trade issues is available from the Technical Standards Manager."

Karl Ruling, the Technical Standards Manager, held up some of the easy to read pamphlets to show their ready availability. No one requested one, and no one brought any restraint of trade issues to the attention of the assembly.

3 Attendance & membership

3.1 Introductions

Those present introduced themselves.

3.2 Taking attendance

A dull green attendance sign-in sheet was circulated. Ruling noted that Steve Rust and Richard Thompson were not present because of illness.

3.3 Requirements for membership

The following was read aloud to the assembly by Robin Crews:

"Membership in the working group is open to all who are affected by the work of the group. Voting members are required to attend meetings and to vote on letter ballots. Voting members and their alternates may not miss three consecutive meetings without a loss of voting status."

3.4 Determination of quorum

Jack Schmidt announced that a quorum was present.

3.5 Processing of new membership requests

Curtis Kasefang of the Theatre Consultants Collaborative, LLC, had applied for observer membership in the custom-market producer interest category. Eddie Kramer moved that Curtis Kasefang be accepted as an observer, as he had requested. The motion was seconded. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

The full consensus body during this meetings, including those not present, was:

| Name | Company | Representing (This is the primary sort-field.) | Voting status | Int. cat. |
|--------------------|---|---|------------------|--------------|
| Jack Schmidt | Special Lighting Solutions | Ballantyne of Omaha, Inc. | P | MP |
| Chip Purchase | Jones Hall | Foundation for Jones Hall | P | U |
| Edwin S. Kramer | I.A.T.S.E. Local 1 | I.A.T.S.E. Local 1 | P | U |
| Richard Logothetis | Lycian Stage Lighting | Lycian Stage Lighting | P | MP |
| Fred Lindauer | Robert Juliat USA | Robert Juliat SA | P | MP |
| Steve Rust | Sachs Morgan Studio | Sachs Morgan Studio | P | G |
| Stephen Vanciel | Stephen Vanciel | Stephen Vanciel | I | U |
| Shawn Nolan | Entertainment Structures Group | Steven Schafer Associates | P | G |
| William L. Maiman | William L. Maiman | William L. Maiman | I | G |
| Robin Crews | Wrightson, Johnson, Haddon & Williams, Inc. | Wrightson, Johnson, Haddon & Williams, Inc. | P | G |
| | | Total votes | 10 | |
| | | Votes by interest category | 3 | MP |
| | | | 0 | CP |
| | | | 0 | DR |
| | | | 3 | U |
| | | | 4 | G |

4 Approval of minutes from the previous meeting (FP/2005-9004)

The draft minutes of the July meeting were modified to take care of a typographical error and to correct the contact information of Robin Crews. Fred Lindauer moved that the minutes so amended

be accepted. The motion was seconded and accepted on a voice vote. The amended minutes for the July meeting are document number FP/2005-9004r1.

5 Approval of agenda

Eddie Kramer moved that the agenda be accepted with the addition of a discussion of the LDI session before the discussion of the draft BSR E1.28 document. The motion was seconded. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

6 Old Business

6.1 LDI presentation

The consensus was that the session provided some good input from the audience, but the audience was small. There was a discussion of the changing focus of LDI to become more of a trade show and less of a conference with the exchange of ideas.

The audience was supportive of the effort. Many in the audience had problems with poorly designed positions--including a guy from India, who was surprised to discover that his problems were not unusual.

There was a discussion of educating the industry--building owners, architects, and consultants--about the need for good design and going beyond simply meeting the minimum requirements of the building code. There was a discussion of the need for a marketing task group.

Bill Maiman was appointed by Jack Schmidt to head a task group to research groups that should know about our standard and be encouraged to use it, and the media appropriate for informing them (e.g., trade publications, conferences, organizations, newsletters). Jack Schmidt asked people with leads and suggestions to send them to Bill Maiman.

The desirability of a session at USITT was discussed. A session on followspot positions would probably draw a good-sized audience there, and theatre consultants and end-users would be present.

6.2 Task group reports, discussion of draft document

6.2.1 Section 2, definitions

Jack Schmidt distributed a draft document.

There was a discussion of the definitions section in a draft document that was circulated, particularly the definitions of "short throw," "medium throw," and "long throw" and the desirability of defining these terms.

Karl Ruling urged the group to only include in the definitions section definitions for words that are unusual or have a special meaning in this standard. Words that are not used in the standard should not be included in the definitions section. If a general glossary for the industry is desirable, it should be in a different document.

There was a long discussion about the definition of position types and how to make them comprehensible for architects. Many people felt that the terms "Type 1," "Type 2," et cetera should be in the definitions section and used in most cases where one might talk about "short throw," "long throw," et cetera. It was suggested that throw distances should not be in defining Types, but there was not consensus on this. The "connected load" was also an item of discussion. The connected load is an indirect indication of the amount of light on stage that the followspot must overcome to be seen as brighter. The connected load can be the load after applying a diversity factor (i.e., how much load is actually used at any time, not how much could be used if everything were turned on), but in some cases the connected load is considered the maximum load that could be connected.

Karl Ruling asked about the minimum contrast ratio between the illumination provided by a followspot and the general stage lighting, and was told that a 2:1 contrast ratio is about the minimum.

Richard Logothetis noted that the document he had written on electrical had five types. This document only has three types. The consensus was that the other types should be included. They could be useful for the architecture section.

6.2.2 Section 3, Architectural

No one from the task group (Richard Thompson, Steve Rust, Steve Vanciel) was present. There was discussion of architectural section in the draft document that was circulated. Ballrooms and black box theatres with unspecified performance areas could be one of the types.

There was a discussion of the window glass angle and material specification. Jerry Gorrell offered to research SMPTE standards to see what they recommend.

6.2.3 Section 4, Structural

It was decided that 4.3 and 4.4 need to be moved into section 3. They deal with equipment and personnel access.

Shawn Nolan distributed two pages of more detailed text for section 4 than the text that was in the draft document distributed by Jack Schmidt. Nolan reviewed it and some items that need further refinement were identified.

Some of the language referenced local building codes, but local building codes allow for difficult access (steep ladders, long access routes, narrow doors, et cetera) to seldom occupied areas and areas for equipment access, and sometimes followspot positions are considered seldom occupied areas or areas for equipment access. This results in followspot positions that are difficult to access or leave in an emergency. Language needs to be added stating that followspot positions shall be considered continuously occupied areas during the periods a building is in use.

There was discussion of handrails. Language about removable rails and wire rope rails had been omitted from Nolan's document but were in Schmidt's document. Schmidt likes wire rope rails because they can prevent falls but are almost optically invisible if the cable diameter is not too thick and the followspot lens is reasonably large. Gorrell noted that wire rope rails are technically not acceptable by OSHA as guard rails, but there are installations where wire rope rails have been accepted. It is helpful for gaining approval if it can be shown that a hazard has been identified, the standard (non-entertainment industry) solution is not appropriate, every reasonable attempt has been made to reduce or eliminate the hazard, and these steps are consistent with recognized industry practice.

6.2.4 Section 5, Electrical

The electrical section was discussed, with emphasis on the wording for convenience outlets and additional power outlets for show-specific equipment.

6.2.5 Section 6, Ventilation — Chip Purchase, Jerry Gorrell, Jack Schmidt

The consensus was that a heat-load statement needs to be added. The lighting equipment will add heat load roughly equal to the power consumption of the equipment. A conservative estimate would be to assume that the lighting load could be equal to the capacity of the power outlets feeding the lighting load.

Chip Purchase asked that the comfort of the operators be considered, that cooling ducts not be aimed directly at the followspot operators. Ideally, the followspot positions should be their own zone

with occupant control, but that is unlikely to be implemented in any building. Manual dampers, controlled by the followspot position occupants may be an option.

6.2.6 Section 7, equipment selection

There was a section 7 in the draft document, but it was decided that most of it is covered elsewhere or should be covered elsewhere. Therefore, Section 7 will be deleted.

7 New Business

None.

8 Other Business

None.

9 Schedule of future meetings

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, 31 March 2006, from 19:00 to 23:00 at the Louisville Marriott Downtown, 280 West Jefferson Street, Louisville, Kentucky.

10 Changes of voting status

The following voting member has missed more than two of the previous consecutive meetings, and will be moved to observer status if this meeting is also missed.

None.

11 Adjournment

Fred Lindauer moved that the meeting adjourn. The motion was seconded and approved on a voice vote. Jack Schmidt declared the meeting adjourned at 22:35.

Working Group Membership and Contact Information as of 28 February 2006

| Name | Company | Representing (This is the sort-field.) | Voting status | Int. cat. |
|------------------------|--|--|------------------|--------------|
| Jack Schmidt | Special Lighting Solutions | Ballantyne of Omaha, Inc. | P | MP |
| Chip Purchase | Jones Hall | Foundation for Jones Hall | P | U |
| Edwin S. Kramer | I.A.T.S.E. Local 1 | I.A.T.S.E. Local 1 | P | U |
| Edward Paget | Jones & Phillips Associates, Inc. | Jones & Phillips Associates, Inc. | O | G |
| Richard Logothetis | Lycian Stage Lighting | Lycian Stage Lighting | P | MP |
| Richard J. Nix | Performance Systems Integration | Performance Systems Integration | O | G |
| Fred Lindauer | Robert Juliat USA | Robert Juliat SA | P | MP |
| Steve Rust | Sachs Morgan Studio | Sachs Morgan Studio | P | G |
| Stephen Vanciel | Stephen Vanciel | Stephen Vanciel | I | U |
| Shawn Nolan | Entertainment Structures Group | Steven Schafer Associates | P | G |
| John Tedesco | The Phoebus Company, Inc. | The Phoebus Company, Inc. | O | MP |
| Curtis Kasefang | Theatre Consultants Collaborative, LLC | Theatre Consultants Collaborative, LLC | O | CP |
| Jerry Gorrell | Theatre Safety Programs | Theatre Safety Programs | O | U |
| Richard D. Thompson | Thompson Associates | Thompson Associates | O | G |
| William L. Maiman | William L. Maiman | William L. Maiman | I | G |
| Robin Crews | Wrightson, Johnson, Haddon & Williams, Inc. | Wrightson, Johnson, Haddon & Williams, Inc. | P | G |

Key to codes:

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|--------------|-----------------------------|
| P principal | MP mass-market producer |
| A alternate | CP custom-market producer |
| I individual | DR dealer or rental company |
| O observer | U user |
| | G general interest |