

Minutes
Fog and Smoke Working Group
January 24, 1998
Irving, TX

Chairman: Larry Schoeneman: Interesting Products

Recording Secretary: Karl G. Ruling

Members in attendance: Brad Dittmer; Associated Theatrical Contractors; Principal
Gary Crawford; C.I.T.C.; Principal
Mike Wood; High End Systems; Principal
Adrian Segeren; Le Maitre Special Effects; Principal
Tony Douglas-Beveridge; PLASA; Principal
Nathan Kahn; Theatre Effects, Inc.; Principal
Bill Hektner; USITT Health & Safety Commissioner; Principal

1 Opening remarks

Larry welcomed the group at 1:15 p.m. after Tony Douglas-Beveridge and Karl Ruling arrived late from a Control Protocols meeting.

2 Attendance and membership

2.1 Introductions of those present

2.2 Determination of quorum (8 needed)

The working group met the minimum requirements for a quorum.

2.3 Recognition of alternate voting members

There were none.

2.4 Requirements for membership

Notice of new attendance requirements:

If you miss two consecutive meetings, your status will be changed to observer, pending your return to the meetings.

2.5 Processing of new membership applications

Rob Schneider, Arizona State University, Observer
Brad Dittmer moved that Schneider be accepted. Bill Hektner seconded. Unanimous

3 Approval of minutes from the previous meeting

Hektner pointed out the misspelling on page 2, "know" should be "known."
Kahn pointed out that he, Nathan Kahn, had made the comment about the lack of an STEL definition in 8, not Tishman.

Hektner moved we accept the October 1997 minutes with the above changes. Mike Wood seconded. Unanimous.

4 Approval of Agenda

Brad Dittmer moved, Bill Hektner seconded accepting the agenda. Unanimous.

5 Call for patents:

Read by Larry Schoeneman:

"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 working group of the existence of a patent or copyright that might protect material in a standard being developed by the working group. You need not be the holder of the patent or copyright in order to notify the working group of its existence. "

6 Anti-Trust Statement

Also read by Larry Schoeneman:

"The ESTA Board of Directors, the Technical Standards Committee, and the leadership of this Working Group 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 working group may be found individually liable for any action that restrains trade taken by this working group. 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."

7 Task Group Reports

7.1 Fog standard E1.5 (Tishman, Segeren, Hektner, Dittmer)

The group discussed the marketing problem that will be caused for some manufacturers if the standard that does not allow scents and colorants. The consensus was that the hard line was the only responsible line. We have no data on all the various scents and colorants that might be used, so we can not state that they are believed to be harmless and write them into a standard.

Nathan Kahn moved we accept the draft (F&S/97-3017r3). Hektner seconded. All in favor except for one abstention.

Brad Dittmer moved that the standard be sent to public review. Bill Hektner seconded the motion. The ballot will be a letter ballot.

7.2 Fog machine instruction manual standard (Gellatly)

No report.

7.3 CMA invitation project (Schoeneman, Segeren)

Hasn't been done.

7.4 League invitation and League/Equity study offer follow up (Ruling)

Ruling reported that he sent a letter and had a brief telephone conversation with Michael Sinder, but that there had been no response yet from the League.

7.5 Phog Photos (Wood)

Mike Wood showed some experiments he has been doing with patches of various densities on a 50% background. Most promising was a chart of blue numbers on a 50% blue background, with the numbers varying in density by 2% steps above and below 50%, for a range from 66% blue down to 34%. The idea is that a sheet like this might be useful for calibrating fog effects. It would be most useful if we could figure out a way to calibrate the sheet so that it might be an absolute measure rather than a relative one.

More experiments are in the offing.

8 *Introduction to Modern Atmospheric Effects*, second edition status (Ruling)

At the time of the meeting the approval of the document was in the hands of the ESTA Board. Its approval was expected.

Gary Crawford suggested that the book could be more useful if it covered some historical methods not recommended now. Larry Schoeneman asked Bill Hektner to write an expanded introduction with a historical data and other methods of making smoke for a future edition.

9 Liaison Reports

9.1 PLASA (Douglas-Beveridge)

"Quiet as a mouse." Nothing from Equity there.

9.2 JATET (Schoeneman)

No report.

9.3 VPLT (von Hofen)

No report.

9.4 Labor Unions (Romans/Fails)

No report.

9.5 Report on NFPA meeting (Schoeneman)

Larry Schoeneman reprised the report he faxed Karl Ruling, and that he gave to the TSC. As a result of his attendance at the NFPA meeting, Schoeneman feels that there is an obvious need for codes for liquid nitrogen (LN₂) and CO₂ (dry ice) special effects. OSHA regulations may mandate suitable maximum and minimum gas concentrations, but nowhere are recommendations for gas monitoring or other safety issues set forth. Without appropriate codes, inspectors have no tools with which they can address safety matters and manufacturers and vendors have no protection against whimsical inspector requirements.

10 New business

Discussion of possible LN₂ & CO₂ standards and other projects. This was covered above. No action was taken.

11 Other business

Mike Wood noted that he was aware of three legal cases with glycol fogs. Apparently one of the problems was that no MSDS's were available.

12 Schedule for future meetings

The next meeting will be at the USITT Conference, March 19, 7 to 11 p.m.

13 Adjournment

Dittmer moved, Hektner seconded. Adjourned at 3:44 p.m.