

**Minutes**  
**Fog and Smoke Working Group**  
Thursday, March 20, 1997  
Doubletree Hotel  
Pittsburgh, PA

Chair: Larry Schoeneman, Interesting Products, Inc.  
Secretary: Karl G. Ruling  
In attendance: Marge Romans, Olesen  
Gary Fails, City Theatrical, Inc.  
Marc Gingras, MDG Fog Generators  
Eric Tishman, Rosco Laboratories  
Adrian Segeren, Le Maitre Special Effects  
Tony Douglas-Beveridge, PLASA  
Bill Hektner, USITT Health & Safety Commissioner  
Brad Dittmer, Associated Theatrical Contractors  
Mike Wood, High End Systems  
F. Lee Iwanski, Four Star Lighting

1 Opening remarks

The meeting was called to order by Larry Schoeneman at 7:10 PM

2 Attendance and membership

- 2.1 Introductions of those present
- 2.2 Requirements for membership
- 2.3 Processing of new membership applications

Murray Gellatly, principal for A.C. Lighting, Ltd.

Mike Wood moved and Brad Dittmer seconded accepting Murray Gellatly. Motion passed 10 to 1.

3 Approval of minutes from the previous meeting

Approved by acclamation

4 Approval of Agenda

Approved by acclamation

5 Schoeneman read the call for patents:

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

6 Schoeneman also read the following anti-trust statement:

"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 AEA invitation (Schoeneman/Ruling)

Schoeneman described how the letter to Kenneth Greenwood, senior business representative of Actors Equity Association, was drafted. Ruling reported that he hand-carried the letter to the Actors Equity Association national offices at 165 West 46th Street in New York on February 18. There has been no response.

8 Glycol study RFQ status - reports from CIH firms (Ruling)

The report from the Cohen Group was the only one received to date. HSE Consulting is still working on their report.

Tony Douglas-Beveridge pointed out that Attachment A of the Cohen "Report of Findings" says:

"Other references, including journal articles and several hundred downloaded database summary references, that were reviewed but which did not materially contribute to the findings and conclusions of the report are not listed."

This clearly is at odds with our specifications in the RFQ, which say:

"The CIH firm also shall provide ESTA with the complete literature bibliography produced by the literature search."

Tony Douglas-Beveridge also said the four questions offered as guidance for future research is inadequate. The four questions do not amount to the "written report describing additional research needed to define safe inhalation exposure concentrations for the glycols listed in section 2.1," as stated in our RFQ.

Bill Hektner moved that we send the report back. Marge Romans seconded. Unanimous.

There was a discussion that working group members should be reminded that the CIH reports are confidential until the working group votes to accept them and make them public. Ruling was instructed to remind working group members of this by marking documents confidential, or some other means.

9 *Introduction to Modern Atmospheric Effects* revision

Agenda points 9.1, Review of suggested brochure rewrites, and 9.2, Discussion of MSDSs for N<sub>2</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub> and proprietary fluids, were addressed in one discussion.

Schoeneman explained that the point is to decide what of these things we want to put in the book, and to do so for review at the June meeting.

Bill Hektner moved we table re-editing document until the June meeting and consider other possible revisions based on CIH documents at that time. Marge Romans second. Unanimous.

Ruling was instructed to remind the CIH firms of our schedule.

## 10 Liaison Reports

### 10.1 PLASA

Tony Douglas-Beveridge reported that he has found an old German VDE standard for smoke machines. He was not sure if it was still in force in Germany.

### 10.2 JATET

Schoeneman reported that he had heard no news from Japan.

### 10.3 VPLT

No report. Florian von Hofen was not present

### 10.4 Labor Unions (Romans/Fails)

Gary Fails had no news. Marge Romans reiterated that AMPTP opposes oil mists because the mists foul equipment.

## 11 Progress in publishing document list on Web page

Ruling reported that the document list was up. He also needs to add a report from Le Maitre.

## 12 New business

Richard Nix from Safe Practice & Loss Control wrote a letter to Schoeneman stating that there users had no guidance on how to calibrate the thermostats on fog machines, or to determine if the thermostats were working properly. He requested that the Fog and Smoke Working Group make this information available to users.

The group discussed the request for information. The agreed response was that responsible manufacturers address these issues in their manuals, so users should read the manuals. People should also use machines that are certified by a reputable testing laboratory, as these will have met the existing relevant standards regarding thermal management. Schoeneman will write a letter to Nix.

Marge Romans suggested we ask chemical companies for contributions to a study of fog. Romans suggested that this should be on the agenda for the next meeting, so the working group should think about it. Ruling suggested that perhaps the best way to get the chemical companies involved is through the CMA's Product Stewardship Program. Larry will discuss this with David Saltiel over lunch or coffee.

## 13 Other business

Eric Tishman and Mike Wood reported that Rosco and High End have been contacted by the Consumer Product Safety Commission regarding the safety of their fogs. Both have been ordered to provide documentation showing that their fogs are safe. Tishman says this issue

should be able to be dispatched fairly quickly. The CPSC is supposed to act on complaints from consumers, i.e. members of the audience. There have been no complaints from consumers, thus the inquiry is outside the mandate of the CPSC.

#### 14 Schedule for future meetings

The next meeting will be at the Dallas/Ft. Worth Airport Marriott in Irving, Texas, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 28, 1997

#### 15 Adjournment

Tishman moved. No objections. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.