

# Minutes Fog and Smoke Working Group

19 October 2002  
Las Vegas Hilton

**Chairman:** Larry Schoeneman; Interesting Products, Inc.; principal; producer

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

**Members attending:** Gary Fails; City Theatrical, Inc.; principal; producer  
Marc Gingras; MDG Fog Generators Ltd.; principal; producer  
Adrian Segeren; Le Maitre Special Effects; principal; producer  
Florian von Hofen; VPLT; principal; general interest  
Bill Hektner; USITT ; principal; general interest  
Greg Meeh; Jauchem & Meeh, Inc.; principal; user  
Mike Wood; High End Systems Inc.; principal; producer  
Tim Cox; PLASA; principal; general interest  
M. Brad Dittmer; Downhome Productions; principal; user  
Michael Sean Graves; Rosco Laboratories; alternate; producer (joined at this meeting)  
David Honigs; Theatre Effects, Inc.; alternate; producer

## 1 Opening remarks

Larry Schoeneman called the meeting to order at 07:00.

## 2 Attendance and membership

### 2.1 Introductions of those present

Larry Schoeneman asked those present to introduce themselves as the chartreuse attendance sign-in sheet was circulated.

### 2.2 Determination of quorum

Schoeneman noted that a quorum was present.

### 2.3 Recognition of alternate voting members

It was noted that David Honigs was present to vote for Theatre Effects.

### 2.4 Requirements for membership

Schoeneman reminded those present that membership is open to all who are affected by the work of the group, but that voting members must attend meetings. Except for organizational members, a member's voting status will be changed to observer at the beginning of the third meeting if he and his alternate have missed the previous two consecutive meetings.

### 2.5 Processing of new membership applications

Michael Sean Graves applied as an alternate for Eric Tishman. Larry Schoeneman asked for a show of support for this application. There was a unanimous show of hands.

### 2.6 Processing of changes to observer status

Larry Schoeneman noted that the following non-organizational voting members had missed the July and May meetings and were not present for this meeting, and so would be moved to observer status:

Murray Gellatly, AC Lighting  
F. Lee Iwanski, Big Apple Lights

The voting body during this meeting was thus:

Name	Company	Representing (sort field)	Voting status	Int. cat.
Gary Fails	City Theatrical, Inc.	City Theatrical, Inc.	P	P
M. Brad Dittmer	Downhome Productions	Downhome Productions	P	U
Mike Wood	High End Systems Inc.	High End Systems Inc.	P	P
Lowell Fowler	High End Systems Inc.	High End Systems Inc.	A	P
Byron Ziegler	High End Systems Inc.	High End Systems Inc.	A	P
Edwin S. Kramer	I.A.T.S.E, Local 1	I.A.T.S.E. Local 1	P	U
Larry Schoeneman	Interesting Products, Inc.	Interesting Products, Inc.	P	P
Greg Meeh	Jauchem & Meeh, Inc.	Jauchem & Meeh, Inc.	P	U
Patrick Boyd	Jauchem & Meeh, Inc.	Jauchem & Meeh, Inc.	A	U
Adrian Segeren	Le Maitre Special Effects	Le Maitre Special Effects	P	P
Marc Gingras	MDG Fog Generators Ltd.	MDG Fog Generators Ltd.	P	P
Martin Michaud	MDG Fog Generators Ltd.	MDG Fog Generators Ltd.	A	P
Tony Douglas-Beveridge	PLASA	PLASA	A	G
Tim Cox	PLASA	PLASA	P	G
Eric Tishman	Rosco Laboratories	Rosco Laboratories	P	P
Michael Sean Graves	Rosco Laboratories	Rosco Laboratories	A	P
Nathan Kahn	Theatre Effects, Inc.	Theatre Effects, Inc.	P	P
David Honigs	Theatre Effects, Inc.	Theatre Effects, Inc.	A	P
Bill Hektner	USITT	USITT	P	G
Florian von Hofen	VPLT	VPLT	P	G
Eckart Steffens	SOUNDLIGHT	VPLT	A	G
Gunther Schaidt	Safex Chemie	VPLT	A	G
			13 total votes	7 P
				3 U
				3 G

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

Brad Dittmer moved that the draft minutes be approved as written. The motion was seconded. The motion was accepted with a unanimous show of hands.

**4 Approval of Agenda**

Bill Hektner moved that we accept the agenda. The motion was seconded. The motion was approved with a unanimous show of hands.

**5 Reading of the call for patents**

The following was read aloud 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."

No issues were brought to the attention of the assembly.

**6 Reading of the anti-trust statement**

Schoeneman read the following aloud:

"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 \$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."

No issues were brought to the attention of the assembly.

## **7 Task group and committee reports**

### **7.1 TSC**

Larry Schoeneman reported on things of general interest in the Technical Standards Program. The RDM (BSR E1.20) session at LDI was rumored to have had 160 people in the seminar. Also in the CPWG, there are now some ACN (BSR E1.17) documents being released to the working group, and there are a great number of projects in the Rigging Working Group.

### **7.2 Fog standard BSR E1.5**

Karl Ruling reported that the draft document is in another public review.

There was a discussion of the letter and fax copy sent to the working group by Monona Rossol. The consensus was that the fax is a statement limiting the responsibility of Huntsman Corporation for some of the things that might be made with glycols, and that is all. There was no information in the fax that would give any data on which to base exposure standards, and the risk assessment statements in the fax are so general as to be valid for all products. No motions were offered in regard to the letter or the copied fax.

### **7.3 Generic fog effect guidance project**

There was a discussion of the outline and who might provide the material for the different sections. The following sections were assigned as indicated:

- 1.1 Scope  
Gasses that can be used. [Ruling]
- 1.4 other referenced standards [Ruling]
- 2 Personnel [Schoeneman]
- 3 Design of the effect [Gingras (oil), Tishman (glycol/glycerin), Schoeneman (liquid nitrogen), and Fails (dry ice) shall write sections for their technologies. Later, Ruling will try to synthesize them into one generic section, applicable to all.]
- 3.7 Fire detection systems [Meeh]
- 4 Operation of the effect [Meeh and Segeren]
- 5 Documentation of effect [Ruling]

Schoeneman directed people to send the assigned text to Karl Ruling no later than December 1.

## **8 Old Business -- Fire alarm letter**

Larry Schoeneman said he will talk to Bill Conner (Schuler and Shook) about why smoke detection systems tied to fire alarms without an intervening human monitor get specified as often as they do in places of assembly, and what we can do to make this specification less frequent.

There was a discussion of what to do as a result of the discovery that basic fire detection, alarm, and communications systems mandated in NFPA 101, the Life Safety Code, provides life safety protection without using smoke detectors, which are prone to false triggering by theatrical fog. Should we propose additional wording in NFPA 101 to suggest that the basic system, without the allowed exceptions, is by far the preferred system for theatrical venues.

The consensus was that we need to decide whether we want to suggest new text for NFPA 101 by the USITT meeting. Schoeneman directed Ruling to distribute the relevant sections of NFPA 101 to the working group members so that they can review them.

## **9 Liaison Reports**

### **9.1 PLASA**

Tim Cox reported that there has been no new controversy. He reported that there are some new CHIP regulations dealing with the shipping of hazardous materials that might apply to some atmospheric effects.

### **9.2 VPLT**

Florian von Hofen said that he has published the notice of the public review of BSR E1.5. He warned the group that some people in Germany have strong opinions and feel that we shouldn't try to standardize fog exposure limits and that the limits we are proposing are far too low.

Von Hofen also reported that VPLT is no longer supporting DIN. They found DIN to be very inefficient and slow. There are other ways in Germany to make standards, so they have worked with the labor safety insurance group (a government organization) to have the group accept VPLT's code of practice for truss. Thus, they are working in a standards-drafting model similar to the TSP's for drafting standards.

### **9.3 The Kramer and Fails Report**

No news, reported Gary Fails.

### **9.4 NFPA – Schoeneman or Ruling**

No news, reported Schoeneman.

## **10 New business**

Schoeneman described the on-line discussion forums and how they are going to work.

## **11 Other business**

Schoeneman reported on the additional fog machine/fluid calibration testing ESTA had set up to be done by ENVIRON International in Chicago. The work was done by Dr. Alan Kao in the big vacant multipurpose room at Interesting Products. Schoeneman had a chance to talk to Dr. Kao, who said the fog is not a controversial subject for Actors' Equity any more. The results of the study done by ENVIRON and the Mt. Sinai School of Medicine have calmed concerns and provided adequate guidance on the use of fog for Equity's purposes.

Larry Schoeneman described the ESTA bucks program and distributed the ESTA bucks that are the reward for attending this meeting.

## **12 Schedule for future meetings**

The next meeting is Saturday 18 January 2003, from 19:00 to 23:00 at the Dallas/Ft. Worth Airport South in Ft. Worth, TX. The following meeting will be Friday, 21 March 2003 at 07:00 at the Hilton Minneapolis in Minneapolis, MN.

### **13 Adjournment**

Brad Dittmer moved that the meeting adjourn. The motion was seconded and approved by acclamation. Larry Schoeneman declared the meeting adjourned at 08:43.

### F&S Working Group Membership and Contact Information as of 2002-11-05

Name	Company	Representing (sort field)	Voting status	Int. cat.
Murray Gellatly	A.C. Lighting Ltd.	A.C. Lighting Ltd.	O	G
Patrick O'Rourke	Big Apple Lights	Big Apple Lights	O	U
F. Lee Iwanski	Big Apple Lights	Big Apple Lights	O	U
Gary Crawford	C.I.T.C.	C.I.T.C.	O	P
Gary Fails	City Theatrical, Inc.	City Theatrical, Inc.	P	P
M. Brad Dittmer	Downhome Productions	Downhome Productions	P	U
Norman Wright	Group One Ltd.	Group One	O	P
Mike Wood	High End Systems Inc.	High End Systems Inc.	P	P
Lowell Fowler	High End Systems Inc.	High End Systems Inc.	A	P
Byron Ziegler	High End Systems Inc.	High End Systems Inc.	A	P
Edwin S. Kramer	I.A.T.S.E, Local 1	I.A.T.S.E. Local 1	P	U
Larry Schoeneman	Interesting Products, Inc.	Interesting Products, Inc.	P	P
Jack Suesse	J.R. Clancy, Inc. (NC)	J.R. Clancy, Inc.	O	G
Greg Meeh	Jauchem & Meeh, Inc.	Jauchem & Meeh, Inc.	P	U
Patrick Boyd	Jauchem & Meeh, Inc.	Jauchem & Meeh, Inc.	A	U
Adrian Segeren	Le Maitre Special Effects	Le Maitre Special Effects	P	P
Marc Gingras	MDG Fog Generators Ltd.	MDG Fog Generators Ltd.	P	P
Martin Michaud	MDG Fog Generators Ltd.	MDG Fog Generators Ltd.	A	P
Monona Rossol	Arts, Crafts & Theater Safety	Monona Rossol	O	G
Kent H. Jorgensen	MPS Grips, Local 80	MPS Grips, Local 80	O	G
Tony Douglas-Beveridge	PLASA	PLASA	A	G
Tim Cox	PLASA	PLASA	P	G
Robert Barbagallo	Proximo Inc.	Proximo Inc.	O	U
Douglas Franz	QVC Network	QVC Network	O	U
Jim Gill	Reel EFX, Inc.	Reel EFX	O	P
Martin Becker	Reel EFX, Inc.	Reel EFX	O	P
Eric Tishman	Rosco Laboratories	Rosco Laboratories	P	P
Michael Sean Graves	Rosco Laboratories	Rosco Laboratories	A	P
Heinz Siller	RST Prsentations-systeme	RST Prsentations-systeme	O	G
Beverly Huggins	SFX Design, Inc.	SFX Design, Inc.	O	P
Nathan Kahn	Theatre Effects, Inc.	Theatre Effects, Inc.	P	P
David Honigs	Theatre Effects, Inc.	Theatre Effects, Inc.	A	P
Jerry Gorrell	Theatre Safety Programs	Theatre Safety Programs	O	G
Thomas Costello	TJC and Associates	TJC and Associates	O	G
Colin Waters	TMB	TMB	O	G
James F. Foley	UCISCO, Inc.	UCISCO, Inc.	O	P
Bill Hektner	USITT	USITT	P	G
Florian von Hofen	VPLT	VPLT	P	G
Eckart Steffens	SOUNDLIGHT	VPLT	A	G
Gunther Schaidt	Safex Chemie	VPLT	A	G
Mark Elliott	Walt Disney Company	Walt Disney Company	O	U
Michael Zilz	Zilz International GmbH	Zilz International GmbH	O	G

#### Voting Status

- P Principal voting representative for a company or organization
- A Alternate voting representative for a company or organization
- I Individual representing no organization other than himself or herself
- O Observer; non-voting

Interest Categories

- P Producer (manufacturer) of fog or smoke effects
- U User of fog or smoke effects
- G General interest