

Minutes
Fog and Smoke Working Group

Saturday, 22 November 2003
Sheraton World Resort
Orlando, Florida

Presiding chairman: Larry Schoeneman; Interesting Products, Inc.; P; CP

Recording secretary: Karl G. Ruling; ESTA

Members attending: F. Lee Iwanski; Big Apple Lights; O; DR
Gary Crawford; C I T C; P; MP (change of voting status at this meeting)
M. Brad Dittmer; Downhome Productions; P; U
Mike Wood; High End Systems Inc.; P; MP
Edwin S. Kramer; I.A.T.S.E, Local 1; P; U
Greg Meeh; Jauchem & Meeh, Inc.; P; DR
Patrick Boyd; Jauchem & Meeh, Inc.; A; DR
Adrian Segeren; Le Maitre Special Effects; P; MP
Don Phillips; Le Maitre Special Effects; A; MP (joined at this meeting)
Martin Michaud; MDG Fog Generators Ltd.; P; MP
Ron Bonner; PLASA; P; G
Eric Tishman; Rosco Laboratories; P; MP
Nathan Kahn; Theatre Effects, Inc.; P; MP
Bill Hektner; USITT; P; G

Key to codes:

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

Visitor: Bohdan Bushell; Jauchem & Meeh, Inc.

1 Opening remarks

Larry Schoeneman called the meeting to order at 7:03 and thanked everyone present for attending at such an early hour.

2 Attendance and membership

2.1 Introductions of those present

Schoeneman asked those present to introduce themselves, which they did.

Attendees were instructed to sign the trillium attendance sheet, which was circulated.

2.2 Determination of quorum

Schoeneman announced that a quorum was present.

2.3 Recognition of alternate voting members

No alternate voting members who would be voting instead of a principal were present.

2.4 Requirements for membership

Schoeneman reminded the assembly that working group membership is open to all who are affected by the work of the group, but that voting members must vote on letter ballots and attend meetings. Except for organizational members, a member's voting status will be changed to observer if he and his alternate together miss three consecutive meetings. This will be done at the beginning of the third meeting missed. Reinstatement of voting status may be requested at the next meeting attended.

2.5 Processing of new membership applications

At the request of Gary Crawford, Bill Hektner moved that Gary Crawford of CITC be accepted back as a principal voting member. The motion was seconded. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Don Phillips of LeMaitre Special Effects submitted an application to serve as Adrian Segeren's alternate. Mike Wood moved that Phillips's application be accepted. The motion was seconded. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

2.6 Processing of changes to observer status if this meeting is missed

Nathan Kahn of Theatre Effects, Inc. had missed the last two meetings and would have been moved to observer status if he missed this meeting too. However, Kahn was present, so he maintained his voting status.

The complete consensus body, including those not attending this meeting, during the period of this meeting was:

Name	Company	Representing	Voting status	Interest category					
				MP	CP	U	G	DR	
Gary Crawford	CITC	CITC	P	1					
Gary Falls	City Theatrical, Inc.	City Theatrical, Inc.	P	1					
M. Brad Dittmer	Downhome Productions	Downhome Productions	P			1			
Mike Wood	High End Systems Inc.	High End Systems Inc.	P	1					
Lowell Fowler	High End Systems Inc.	High End Systems Inc.	A						
Edwin S. Kramer	I.A.T.S.E. Local 1	I.A.T.S.E. Local 1	P			1			
Larry Schoeneman	Interesting Products, Inc.	Interesting Products, Inc.	P		1				
Greg Meeh	Jauchem & Meeh, Inc.	Jauchem & Meeh, Inc.	P					1	
Patrick Boyd	Jauchem & Meeh, Inc.	Jauchem & Meeh, Inc.	A						
Adrian Segeren	Le Maitre Special Effects	Le Maitre Special Effects	P	1					
Don Phillips	Le Maitre Special Effects	Le Maitre Special Effects	A						
Martin Michaud	MDG Fog Generators Ltd.	MDG Fog Generators Ltd.	P	1					
Ron Bonner	PLASA	PLASA	P				1		
Tony Douglas-Beveridge	PLASA	PLASA	A						
Eric Tishman	Rosco Laboratories	Rosco Laboratories	P	1					
Nathan Kahn	Theatre Effects, Inc.	Theatre Effects, Inc.	P	1					
Bill Hektner	USITT	USITT	P				1		
Florian von Hofen	VPLT	VPLT	P				1		
Eckart Steffens	SOUNDLIGHT	VPLT	A						
Gunther Schaidt	Safex Chemie	VPLT	A						
				14	7	1	2	3	1

3 Approval of minutes from the previous meeting

Brad Dittmer moved that the draft minutes be accepted as written. The motion was seconded and approved by a unanimous voice vote.

4 Approval of Agenda

Bill Hektner moved that the draft agenda be adopted as written. The motion was seconded and approved by a unanimous voice vote.

5 Reading of the call for patents

Larry Schoeneman read the following statement aloud to the assembly:

"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 patents or copyrights were brought to the attention of the group.

6 Reading of the anti-trust statement

Larry Schoeneman read the following statement aloud to the assembly:

"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."

Karl Ruling held up some of the pamphlets to show their availability. No anti-trust or restraint of trade issues were brought to the attention of the group.

7 Task group and committee reports

7.1 TSC – Larry Schoeneman

Schoeneman gave a general report on the activities in the Technical Standards Program. He noted that the Camera Cranes Working Group is making progress again and that there are lots of rigging standards in the works. The Electrical Power Working Group is working on a very large document to described recommended ways to select and use portable power feeder cable. The Floors Working Group is also making progress. He noted that the visit by JASST (roughly translated as the Japanese Association for Stage Safety Technology) to the ESTA office shows that the importance of the TSP is growing in the world. He also noted that Mike Wood is working on a form for standards proposals so that the TSP does not get over-extended in projects that would have little impact or that would have little support in the industry.

7.2 E1.23, Generic fog effect guidance project

The document was discussed, with particular attention being paid to the section in the appendix giving advice on testing to see if fire alarm systems will be triggered by fog.

Greg Meeh said alarm systems normally have a service procedure for testing them, which may be useful.

Crawford said that fog effect technicians needing to run an alarm test should get in touch with the maintenance and air conditioning system people at the venue. "Building engineer" is one of the titles you are often looking for, said Greg Meeh.

Crawford said that if a fire department officer or other AHJ needs to be on site during the test, arrange for him or her to be there and to pay any fees that might be necessary. It's cheaper to pay the fees than it is to deal with the trouble of not properly testing the system and working with the AHJ.

Crawford suggested that any tests run until at least twenty minutes after the fog production ceases. You need to wait to see if there are delayed trigger and you need to be careful of fog carried into other parts of a building, besides the performance venue.

Meeh noted that the air handling system must be in show conditions for the alarm testing.

Meeh said that the clause 3.5.1.1, which says "shall not hide hazards, shall not hide egress paths, shall not hide warning signs" needs to deal with holes in floor that might be there deliberately during a show. Ruling said that these holes need to be guarded in some other way so that they are not a hazard to personnel.

It was pointed out that clause 3.5.4 has an asterisk but no reference. Should the text in A.3.5.2.3 be A.3.5.4?

Ruling said he would attempt to have another version of BSR E1.23 by the next meeting, perhaps to consider a first public review motion in January.

7.3 Fire detector guidance document

Greg Meeh reported on fire detection systems that have the ability to distinguish levels of particulate in the air.

One product of particular interest is the VESDA by Notifier and Vision Systems (VESDA). Meeh is working on a project at a casino that is using a multi-detector VESDA system with UV flame recognition. The fire detection system is coupled to an annunciation system for the deluge system that gives a 60 second warning and has an over-ride switch near fire control panel. Furthermore, a dead-man override switch on the effects control board is being proposed to tie in to the alarm system. This switch would over-ride the deluge system. This override switch would be in the circuit only during show conditions. He is asking for a means of confirming that the alarm system is in this override mode during a show so the operator doesn't fire off the effects unless the deluge system response can be suppressed.

8 Old Business

None.

9 Liaison Reports

9.1 PLASA

Ron Bonner reported on a visit to the opera house at Glyndbourne, which has an analog, addressable fire detection system. It has performance and non-performance operating modes. The performance mode isolates the stage detectors, but it still need a person in the loop to oversee what is going on. The air handling system pushes air toward the stage, keeping the fog in the isolated detection area.

Bonner also went to a Brighton theatre in the Dome complex. A new alarm system has been fitted there, a VESDA system, but the system is so complicated that they have had trouble running it. The VESDA system can't solve all the problems, Bonner concluded, and the system cannot be automated completely. A person must be in the loop.

9.2 VPLT - Von Hofen or Steffens

Neither were present; no report.

9.3 The Kramer and Fails Report

Kramer had no report, other than to say that he has been incredibly busy at Radio City Music Hall.

9.4 NFPA

Schoeneman reported that the revision schedule for NFPA 1126 and 160 has been moved up by 6 months. There is a conference call scheduled for December and a face-to-face meeting in February in Quincy.

10 New business

Brad Dittmer had received a request for someone from the F&S Working Group to do a presentation about fog and fog testing at the Opera America conference in Pittsburgh in June. Karl Ruling was selected to do the presentation.

11 Other business

Ron Bonner reported that a reporter from The Guardian had called him for comments on reports from museum staff that the artificial fog being used in an installation at the Tate Modern are causing psychedelic effects. He told the reporter that fog had been thoroughly studied, and that such psychotropic effects were highly unlikely.

12 Schedule for future meetings

Schoeneman announced that the next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, January 17, 2004 at 19:00. The venue is the Dallas/Ft. Worth Airport Marriott South in Ft. Worth, Texas. The following meeting will be March 19 in Long Beach, CA.

13 Adjournment

Brad Dittmer moved that the meeting adjourn. The motion was seconded and approved by acclamation. Schoeneman declared the meeting adjourned at 08:17.

Fog and Smoke Working Group Membership as of 2003-12-5

Name	Company	Representing (This is the sort field.)	Voting status	Int. cat.
Murray Gellatly	A.C. Lighting Ltd.	A.C. Lighting Ltd.	O	DR
Patrick O'Rourke	Big Apple Lights	Big Apple Lights	O	DR
F. Lee Iwanski	Big Apple Lights	Big Apple Lights	O	DR
Gary Crawford	C I T C	C I T C	P	MP
Gary Fails	City Theatrical, Inc.	City Theatrical, Inc.	P	MP
M. Brad Dittmer	Downhome Productions - Springfield, MO	Downhome Productions	P	U
Norman Wright	Group One Ltd.	Group One	O	DR
Mike Wood	High End Systems Inc.	High End Systems Inc.	P	MP
Lowell Fowler	High End Systems Inc.	High End Systems Inc.	A	MP
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	CP
Jack Suesse	J.R. Clancy, Inc. (NC)	J.R. Clancy, Inc.	O	G
Greg Meeh	Jauchem & Meeh, Inc.	Jauchem & Meeh, Inc.	P	DR
Patrick Boyd	Jauchem & Meeh, Inc.	Jauchem & Meeh, Inc.	A	DR
Adrian Segeren	Le Maitre Special Effects	Le Maitre Special Effects	P	MP
Don Phillips	Le Maitre Special Effects	Le Maitre Special Effects	A	MP
Martin Michaud	MDG Fog Generators Ltd.	MDG Fog Generators Ltd.	P	MP
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
Ron Bonner	PLASA	PLASA	P	G
Douglas Franz	QVC Network	QVC Network	O	U
Jim Gill	Reel EFX, Inc.	Reel EFX	O	MP
Martin Becker	Reel EFX, Inc.	Reel EFX	O	MP
Eric Tishman	Rosco Laboratories	Rosco Laboratories	P	MP
Heinz Siller	RST Präsentationssysteme	RST Präsentationssysteme	O	G
Beverly Huggins	SFX Design, Inc.	SFX Design, Inc.	O	MP
Robert Barbagallo	Solotech Inc.	Solotech Inc.	O	U
Stephen Vanciel	Stephen Vanciel	Stephen Vanciel	O	U
Reuben Goldberg	Technic Services	Technic Services	O	U
Nathan Kahn	Theatre Effects, Inc.	Theatre Effects, Inc.	P	MP
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	MP
Peggy Lee Martindale	University of Texas, Austin	University of Texas, Austin	O	G
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

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