

Minutes
RIGGING WORKING GROUP
Friday, January 23, 1998
Dallas/Ft. Worth Airport Marriott
Irving, TX

Chairman: Mike Garl, James Thomas Engineering

Recording secretary: Karl G. Ruling

Rigging Working Group members in attendance:

Jim Fletcher, American Sling Company, Inc., Principal
Brad Dittmer, Associated Theatrical Contractors, Principal
Eric Todd, BML Inc., Principal
Geoff Shiell, Bytcraft Pty. Ltd., Principal (voted in at this meeting)
Wally Blount, CM Lodestar, Principal
Reid Neslage, H & H Specialties Inc., Principal
Mike Garl, James Thomas Engineering, Inc., Principal
Jay O. Glerum, Jay O. Glerum & Associates, Inc., Principal
Mark Herman, Lift-All Co., Inc., Principal
Ian J. Warhurst, Lite Structures, Ltd., Principal
Billy Phillips, Phillips Rigging, Principal
Tony Douglas-Beveridge, PLASA, Principal
George Sabbi, PRG Lighting Division, Principal
Richard Nix, Richard Nix, Principal
Randall W. A. Davidson, Risk International & Associates, Principal
Bill Sapsis, Sapsis Rigging, Inc., Principal
Jerry Gorrell, Theatre Safety Programs, Principal
Jay Edwards, Tomcat USA, Inc., Principal
Peter Hind, Total Fabrications (UK), Principal

Visitor: Eckart Steffens, VPLT

1 Opening remarks

Mike Garl called the meeting to order and welcomed all to Dallas at 7:05 p.m.

2 Attendance and membership

2.1 Introduction of those present

Those present introduced themselves, taking turns going around the table in a clockwise direction.

2.2 Call for quorum

Mike Garl announced that we had a quorum. We had to request more chairs because of the size of the crowd.

2.3 Requirements for Membership

Mike Garl reminded people of the new membership attendance requirements. These were announced at the last meeting:

Every principal member of the working group is required to attend meetings. Any principal member or voting alternate who misses 3 consecutive meetings will have their membership status changed from principal member to observer. This action will be taken as the last item of business at each meeting and recorded in the minutes of that meeting.

Garl also reminded members that they are required to respond to letter ballots. Two missed ballots earn a warning. Three missed ballots result in a change to observer status.

3 Processing of New Membership Requests

Mike Garl read the list of people applying for membership in the working group. Jay Glerum moved that we accept them all. Richard Nix seconded. Unanimous by show of hands. The following people accepted with the indicated status:

Bill Björkman, Stage Rigging, Inc., Alternate
Bill Webb, Martin Audio Ltd., Observer
F. Robert Bauer, Theatrix Inc., Observer
Geoff Shiell, Bytecrafft Pty. Ltd., Principal
George Sabbi, PRG Lighting Division [company change], Principal
Jerrod S. Tiers, St. Louis Music Inc., Observer
Jon Lagerquist, South Coast Repertory, Observer
Mark Fitch, Renkus-Heinz, Inc., Observer
Robert Mullett, Bose Corporation, Observer
Scott Mohr, R&R Cases and Cabinets, Observer
Ted Hickey, OAP Audio Products, Observer
Wes Jenkins, Down Stage Right Industries, Observer

4 Approval of minutes from the previous meeting

Randall Davidson moved the minutes be accepted as written. Bill Sapsis seconded the motion. Unanimous by show of hands.

5 ESTA Disclaimers

Mike Garl directed the group to read the following notices:

5.1 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 maybe 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.

5.2 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 Approval of agenda

Richard Nix requested a point 8.1 be added to discuss a proposal to establish a task group to draft a telescopic lighting tree standard.

Mike Garl wants to add under "Other Business 9.1" a review of the standards-drafting process.

Brad Dittmer moved we accept the agenda with modifications. Bill Sapsis seconded. Unanimous by show of hands

7 Old business

7.1 E1.1, Wire rope ladder standard - Review of comment resolution

Bill Björkman offered Rocky Paulson's responses to the comments (Rig/98-2002).

Eric Todd moved the group vote to accept each point by letter ballot. Wally Blount seconded. Nineteen in favor, one opposed, by show of hands.

7.2 Status of E1.2, aluminum truss standard

Mike Garl reported that the standard had received 61 comments in its first public review. The task group had resolved 19 or 20 comments. The group will meet tomorrow morning (1/24) to resolve the rest. The revised document should be ready for a second public review vote at the USITT meeting.

7.3 USITT stage rigging task group

7.3.1 E 1.4, Manual counterweight flying systems standard - Review of comment resolution

Jay Glerum reported that there were 351 comments. Most of the comments dealt with typos and definitions that were put into the document at the last minute. A mini-task group of three people has been working on the suggested comment resolutions. Rod Kaiser has prepared a resolution summary and ballot to be voted on by the task group. The task group's hope is to have the resolutions out to a vote before the USITT conference. The task group intends to send the document to a second public review.

7.3.2 E1.7, Flying performers - Recommended practice - Progress report

The document had been mailed too late for the two-week rule, but the members of the working group had received it before the meeting, and no one objected to discussing the draft document and taking action on it.

Jay Glerum moved that the draft standard be sent to public review. Jerry Gorrell seconded. Unanimous show of support for this motion. Formal vote by letter ballot.

7.3.3 E1.6, Motorized flying systems - Progress report

Ruling reported that the motion to send the draft standard to public review had passed the working group, but that one ballot in the TSC was still outstanding

7.4 E1.8, Speaker Rigging Task Group - Progress Report

Ruling reported that the motion to send the draft standard to public review had passed the working group, but that one ballot in the TSC was still outstanding

7.5 E1.x, Building structural requirements task group - Progress report

Jerry Gorrell reported that the "engineer is chewing on it." He hopes the working group will have the document before the USITT conference.

8 New Business

8.1 Trees project

Nix moved we set up a task group to work on a standard for the manufacture and safe use of telescopic lighting trees. Jay Glerum seconded the motion.

There was a long discussion on what products this standard might cover, and what products we would not want to cover.

The motion failed with only two votes in support.

Mike Garl directed Richard Nix to write a statement for the next meeting that will better define the scope of the proposed standard.

9 Other Business

Mike Garl reviewed the process by which standards are drafted in ESTA and stressed the importance of submitting comments on ballots that are only relevant to the particular question on the ballot.

10 Schedule for Future Meetings

The next meeting will be March 18, 1998, at 7:00 p.m. in Long Beach, CA, at the Westin Long Beach hotel, formally known as the Sheraton Long Beach.

11 Changes of membership status resulting from lack of attendance.

No action was taken at this meeting.

12 Adjournment

Jay Glerum moved for adjournment. Bill Sapsis seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.