

Minutes
RIGGING WORKING GROUP
Wednesday, March 18, 1998, 7 p.m.
Long Beach, CA

Chairman: Mike Garl, James Thomas Engineering

Recording secretary: Karl G. Ruling

Rigging Working Group members in attendance:

Brad Dittmer; Associated Theatrical Contractors; Principal
Andrew T. Martin; ATM Group, Inc.; Principal
Wally Blount; CM Lodestar ; Principal
Roland Van Wensveen; Doughty & Prolyte, Inc.; Principal
Reid Neslage; H & H Specialties Inc.; Principal
Rodney F. Kaiser; J.R. Clancy Inc.; Principal
Mike Garl; James Thomas Engineering, Inc.; Principal
Tray Allen; James Thomas Engineering, Inc.; Alternate
Jay O. Glerum; Jay O. Glerum & Associates, Inc.; Principal
John R. Burgess; John R. Burgess; Principal (voted in at this meeting)
Mark Herman; Lift-All Co., Inc.; Principal
Gary Justensen; Oasis Stage Werks; Observer
George Sabbi; PRG Lighting Division; Principal (arrived at 8:05 p.m.)
Bill Sapsis; Sapsis Rigging, Inc.; Principal
Jon Lagerquist; South Coast Repertory; Observer
Rocky Paulson; Stage Rigging, Inc.; Principal
Jerry Gorrell; Theatre Safety Programs; Principal
F. Robert Bauer; Theatrix Inc.; Observer

Visitors: Stuart MacPherson, James Thomas Engineering
Larry Lutz, Texas Scenic Co.

1 Opening Remarks

Mike Garl called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2 Attendance and Membership

2.1 Introduction of Those Present

Those present introduced themselves.

2.2 Call for Quorum (10 needed.)

We had 12 voting members at the start of the meeting, including the chair. Mike Garl announced that we have a quorum.

2.3 Requirements for Membership

Mike Garl reminded people of the new membership attendance requirements effective as of the first of this year:

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

We had an application from Heinz Siller of RST Präsentationssysteme in Germany who asked to join as an observer. We also had an application from John Burgess, who had been on the working group before representing University of Memphis. Burgess had left Tennessee, which resulted in him being dropped from the working group membership roll. He is now working as a free-lance rigger, and applied to represent himself on the working group.

Rodney Kaiser moved that both applicants be accepted. Jay Glerum seconded. Unanimous by show of hands.

4 Approval of Minutes from the Previous Meeting

Brad Dittmer moved that the minutes be accepted as written. Rocky Paulson seconded. Unanimous by show of hands.

5 ESTA Declarations

Mike Garl read the following declarations:

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

Brad Dittmer moved that the agenda be accepted. Jerry Gorrell seconded. Unanimous by show of hands.

7 Old Business

7.1 Wire Rope Ladder Standard - Status of Comment Resolution

Ruling reported that there were still a few letter ballots outstanding on accepting the proposed resolutions to the wire rope ladder standard. The ballot period closes March 23.

7.2 Aluminum Truss Standard E1.2

Bill Sapsis moved that the resolutions (Rig/98-2008) offered to the working group be accepted. Brad Dittmer seconded.

There was a discussion of the differences between a competent person and a qualified person, and the exact definitions of each. Jay Glerum moved that the discussion be tabled, and Wally Blount seconded.

Mike Garl appointed a task group of Rocky Paulson, Wally Blount, and Jay Glerum to draft definitions of "competent" and "qualified" for the next meeting. Legal counsel will review the definitions.

Glerum and Sapsis moved and seconded that we return to the matter of E1.2 and call the question on accepting the comment resolutions. By show of hands, eleven in favor, none opposed.

Brad Dittmer moved that E1.2 be sent to a second public review. Andrew Martin seconded. Eleven in favor, none opposed.

7.3 USITT Stage Rigging Task Group

7.3.1 Manual Counterweight Flying Systems Standard

Glerum asked the committee to accept the comment resolutions (98-2006) offered for E1.4. Wally Blount moved that the comment resolutions be accepted. Rocky Paulson seconded. Ten in favor with one abstention from Brad Dittmer, who hadn't read all 351 resolutions.

Rodney Kaiser proposed that we add another paragraph under 3.18.7 to address batten clamps that hold connector strips as well as battens, or that hold multiple battens, and to slightly renumber the section. 3.18.7 thus becomes a heading with two paragraphs below it, 3.18.7.1 and 3.18.7.2, to cover single and multiple battens respectively. The section would then read:

3.18.7 Batten clamps

3.18.7.1 Single batten

Batten clamps shall be made from steel or aluminum. Clamps shall fully enclose and clamp the batten to prevent accidental removal or twisting of the batten. A hole at the top of the clamp shall permit the attachment of the clamp to chain or wire rope with appropriate connection hardware. In applications where the bottom of the clamp must be open, the minimum service factors shall be maintained.

3.18.7.2 Multiple batten

The same criteria shall apply if more than one batten, or combination of battens and connector strips, are connected by batten clamps. Each batten in the assembly shall conform to "3.8.1 Typical batten." Labeling as required by "4.6 Battens" shall be based on the total assembly, including all battens, connections, and other factors. Unless specifically designed to carry loads, connector strips shall not be considered a structural component when determining load ratings.

Bill Sapsis moved we accept these changes and the new paragraph. John Burgess seconded. By this time George Sabbi had joined the meeting. The vote was 12 in favor, and none against.

Wally Blount moved that the draft standard be sent to letter ballot for a second public review. Reid Neslage seconded the motion. 12 in favor; none against.

7.3.2 Flying Performers - Recommended Practice - Progress Report

Ruling reported that there were still a few letter ballots outstanding on sending the draft E1.7 to public review. The ballot period closes March 23.

7.3.3 Motorized Flying Systems - Progress Report

Ruling reported that the draft standard is now in public review. ANSI announced the start of the public review period in the February 27 issue of Standards Action.

7.4 Speaker Rigging Task Group - Progress Report

Ruling reported that the draft standard is now in public review. ANSI announced the start of the public review period in the February 27 issue of Standards Action.

7.5 Building Structural Requirements Task Group - Progress Report - Gorrell

Jay Glerum moved that E1.10 be sent to public review via ANSI. Bill Sapsis seconded. Unanimous by show of hands. A letter ballot to initiate the public review will be sent to the working group.

7.6 Proposal for Standard for Theatrical Lighting Trees - Richard Nix

There was no motion. No action was taken.

8 New Business

Jay Glerum asked to group to consider thinking about breaking the working group up into two working groups and to be ready to discuss this when the group meets in Chicago.

9 Other Business

Wally Blount brought up the matter of the recent cases of falling scoreboards at sports arenas. According to Blount, the Material Handling Institute had declined to draft a standard for the lifting devices used to suspend the central scoreboards because this would be a "special purpose" standard. Jay Glerum said that the IAAM is very concerned about these rigging failures. Glerum is a member of the IAAM task group addressing the problem, and thinks they should work with ESTA on a standard. IAAM will meet in late July, said Glerum, and he suggested this working group defer any action until after that meeting.

Bill Sapsis moved that Jay Glerum act as a liaison between ESTA and IAAM for the purpose of investigating developing a task group for a standard for speakers and scoreboard rigging in arenas. Rodney Kaiser seconded the motion. Twelve in favor. None opposed.

10 Schedule for Future Meetings

The next meeting will be at:

7:00 p.m., July 10, 1998
Clarion International at O'Hare Airport
6810 N. Mannheim Rd.
Rosemont, IL 60018
847-297-8464
Fax 847-297-8744

11 Changes of membership status resulting from lack of participation.

No action taken at this meeting.

12 Adjournment

Jay Glerum moved to adjourn. Bill Sapsis seconded. No objections. The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.