

**Minutes**  
**Stage Machinery Working Group**  
Thursday, 15 October 2020  
via WebEx

**Presiding chairperson:** Dan Culhane; Wenger

**Recording secretaries:** Richard Nix & Karl Ruling; ESTA

**Members attending:**

Jesse Adams; Rose Brand (Rose Brand Wipers, Inc); P; DR  
Drew Becker; InterAmerica Stage, Inc.; A; CP  
Joseph Champelli; Entertainment Project Services, LLC; P; CP  
Dan Culhane; J.R. Clancy, Inc. (Wenger Corp.); P; MP  
Bruce Darden; InterAmerica Stage, Inc.; P; CP  
Robert Dean; ZFX, Inc.; P; CP  
Bruce Downer; SERAPID, Inc.; P; CP  
Jerry Gorrell; Theatre Safety Programs; P; G  
Jeremy Hodgson; I; G  
Joseph Jeremy; Niscon Inc. (Show Distribution Group, Inc.); P; CP  
Dan Lisowski; Dept. Of Theatre and Drama (University of Wisconsin - Madison); O; U  
Franco Magliozzi; Chubb Group of Insurance Companies; O; G  
Wendy Manson; O; G  
Reid Neslage; H & H Specialties Inc.; P; MP  
Michael Nishball; Theatre Projects Consultants, Inc.; P; DE  
Richard J. Nix; I; G  
Peter A. Scheu; Scheu Consulting Services, Inc. (Amer. Society of Theatre Consultants); P; DE  
Steven Serafin; The Hartford Group; P; G  
Peter V. Svitavsky; J.R. Clancy, Inc. (Wenger Corp.); A; MP  
Christopher B. Tilton; About the Stage, LLC; P; DE  
Michael Wade; Creative Conners, Inc.; A; MP  
Steve Walker; Steve A. Walker & Associates; P; DE  
Andrew Young; San Diego State University (Andrew Young); I; U

**1 Opening Remarks**

Dan Culhane called the meeting to order at 10:04. He thanked everyone for taking time out of their hectic schedules for this meeting to help move standards forward.

**2 Patent and anti-trust statements**

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

Dan Culhane read the following statement aloud to the assembly.

ESTA and its members take seriously their obligation to comply with all applicable antitrust laws. Therefore, during this meeting and during all ESTA events, all discussions will be limited to those subjects that are permitted by the antitrust laws. All members should refrain from any discussion or mention of competitively sensitive subjects such as the current or future prices charged for any member product or services, current or future marketing plans or strategies, and current or future costs, including employee salaries. There also must be no agreement on the suppliers or customers that members will or will not do business with or the markets in which members will conduct business.

Violations of the antitrust laws can have serious consequences. If you have any questions or concerns about anything that is discussed at an ESTA meeting, please bring your concern to ESTA management. An easy to read pamphlet describing the antitrust laws is available from the ESTA staff.

Karl Ruling held a pamphlet in front of his camera so it would show on video to the other meeting participants.

Culhane said that an electronic version is available.

No anti-trust concerns were reported.

## **2.2 Reading of the call for patents**

Dan Culhane read the following statement aloud to the assembly.

ESTA intends not to publish any standard that contains protected intellectual property, unless that information can be licensed by anyone for a reasonable fee. ESTA uses a process of open patent and copyright disclosures to implement its intent. ESTA does not conduct patent or copyright searches and does not warrant that its standards contain no protected intellectual property.

In keeping with the open disclosures policy, I ask if anyone present wishes to notify this working group of the existence of a patent, patent application, copyright, or other protected intellectual property that might protect material in a standard being developed by this working group. You need not be the holder of the patent or copyright to notify this working group of its existence.

Nothing was revealed.

## **3 Attendance and Membership**

### **3.1 Requirements for membership**

Dan Culhane read the following statement aloud to the assembly.

Membership is open to all parties who are affected by the work of the group; membership in ESTA is not a requirement, but there is a \$100/person/year participation fee to help fund the costs of running the Technical Standards Program. Voting members are required to attend meetings and vote on letter ballots. Any principal member and alternate that both miss three consecutive meetings or that miss three consecutive letter ballots will have their membership status changed to observer. This action will be taken at the beginning of the first meeting after such inaction and will be recorded in the minutes of that meeting.

Richard Nix asked people to please pay their fee. If they received a reminder notice but have already paid, please respond so we can make the appropriate corrections. We have moved to a new accounting database.

### **3.2 Introduction of attendees**

Richard Nix read the participants list; the participants were recognized.

### **3.3 Determination of a quorum**

Richard Nix reported that enough voters were present to support a motion requiring a supermajority.

### **3.4 Processing of new membership and status change requests**

*As of today's meeting, the following applications and status change requests had been received:*

Robert Dean; ZFX, Inc; P; CP

Steve Walker moved to approve the application. The motion was seconded and carried without objection.

### **3.5 Changes to observer status**

#### **3.5.1 Changes due to attendance**

At the time of this meeting, no voters had missed the last two meetings, so none were in jeopardy of being moved to Observer status if this meeting also was missed:

#### **3.5.2 Changes due to missed letter ballots**

No voters were moved to Observer status because of missed letter ballots.

### 3.5.3 Automatic status changes

No changes since the last meeting.

### 3.6 Consensus body

The table below shows the full consensus voting body during the meeting.

Name	Representing	Status	Int Cat
Christopher B. Tilton	About the Stage, LLC	P	DE
Peter A. Scheu	Amer. Society of Theatre Consultants	P	DE
R. Duane Wilson	Amer. Society of Theatre Consultants	A	DE
Andrew Young	Andrew Young	I	U
Mike Brubaker	CM Buck Associates	P	DR
Gareth Conner	Creative Conners, Inc.	P	MP
Michael Wade	Creative Conners, Inc.	A	MP
Nils Becker	Electronic Theatre Controls, Inc.	P	MP
Joseph Champelli	Entertainment Project Services, LLC	P	CP
Eric Rouse	Entertainment Project Services, LLC	A	CP
Joshua "Fritz" Friedensohn	Entertainment Project Services, LLC	A	CP
Joe Golden	Gallagher Staging	P	DR
Reid Neslage	H & H Specialties, Inc.	P	MP
Bruce Darden	InterAmerica Stage, Inc.	P	CP
Drew Becker	InterAmerica Stage, Inc.	A	CP
Jeremy Hodgson	Jeremy Hodgson	I	G
Michael Shaw	Motion Laboratories, Inc.	P	MP
Rick Montgomery	Motion Laboratories, Inc.	A	MP
Richard J. Nix	Richard J. Nix	I	G
Jesse Adams	Rose Brand Wipers, Inc	P	DR
Bruce Downer	SERAPID, Inc.	P	CP
Joseph Jeremy	Show Distribution Group, Inc.	P	CP
Bill McIntyre	Show Distribution Group, Inc.	A	CP
Sanford P Gilzow	Shur-Rig LLC	P	DR
Steve Walker	Steve A. Walker & Associates	P	DE
Julian Hoare	Tait Towers Manufacturing LLC	P	CP
Jim Love	Tait Towers Manufacturing LLC	A	CP
David Bond	Tait Towers Manufacturing LLC	A	CP
Nathan Dye	Texas Scenic Company	P	CP
Steven Serafin	The Hartford Group	P	G
Michael Nishball	Theatre Projects Consultants, Inc.	P	DE
Jim Niesel	Theatre Projects Consultants, Inc.	A	DE
Jerry Gorrell	Theatre Safety Programs	P	G

Name	Representing	Status	Int Cat
Paul Brunner	Thern, Inc.	P	MP
Zachary Stevenson	University of North Carolina School of the Arts	P	U
Dan Brinker	U.S.I.T.T	P	G
Dan Culhane	Wenger Corp.	P	MP
Peter V. Svitavsky	Wenger Corp.	A	MP
Paul Zagajeski	Wenger Corp.	A	MP
Robert Dean	ZFX, Inc.	P	CP
<b>Total possible votes:</b>		<b>28</b>	
	Custom market producer (CP)		7
	Designer (DE)		4
	Dealer rental company (DR)		4
	General interest (G)		5
	Mass-market producer (MP)		6
	User (U)		2
<b>Voting status key:</b> P = Principal voter, A = Alternate voter, I = Individual voter			

#### 4 Approval of the minutes from the last meeting

[See *SMmin07-2020\_DRAFT.pdf*]

Bruce Darden moved to approve the draft minutes as written. The motion was seconded. There was no discussion. The motion was accepted; there were no objections and no abstentions.

#### 5 Approval of agenda

Joseph Jeremy moved to approve the agenda as written. The motion was seconded. The motion was accepted without objections or abstentions.

#### 6 Old Business

##### 6.1 BSR E1.42-201x, stage and orchestra lifts

*Steve Walker (leader), Jim Niesel (co-leader), Michael Nishball, Pete Svitavsky, and Chris Tilton*

*From July's draft meeting minutes:*

*Steve Walker said that they have had informal discussions, but have had trouble accommodating everyone's schedules. He said they will be more diligent about meetings, in order to provide a better update at the October working group meeting.*

Steve Walker reported that the task group is meeting every three weeks to revise the document. He asked if the title can be changed, since the draft is not only about orchestra pit lifts. It can, Nix said. The PINS form filed noted that the scope was being expanded beyond orchestra pit lifts. The task group is trying to decide how the rules and recommendations should be different for temporary as opposed to permanent lifts. The task group would like to invite other manufacturers to participate.

##### 6.2 ANSI E1.44 – 2014, Common Show File Exchange Format for Entertainment Industry Automation Control Systems -- Stage Machinery (Reaffirm, revise or withdraw by 07 May 2024)

No news or action.

##### 6.3 BSR E1.64, Stage Machinery Motion Control

*Task group members are: Joe Jeremy (Chair), Michael Shaw, Jem Hodgson, Wendy Manson, Gareth Conner, Bruce Darden, Nils Becker, Duane Wilson, David Bond, Nathan Dye, Julian Hoare, Bill McIntyre, John Ringelman.*

Joe Jeremy reported they had met the previous day (October 14). They have a good body of work, but there is still more work to do. However, it's making good progress.

#### **6.4 BSR E1.71 Curtain Machines**

*Jesse Adams (task group leader), Pete Svitavsy, Dan Brinker, Reid Neslage, Bruce Darden, Mike Brubaker, and Paul Brunner.*

Jesse Adams reported they have been meeting bi-weekly, and have made good progress. It's possible they might have something in time for January's meeting, but he's making no promises, as there are still some important coordination topics to address. The task group is working backward from E1.6-1, removing from that standard what is not necessary for curtain machines.

#### **6.5 BSR E1.72 Floor Machines**

*Steve Serafin (Co-task group leader), Drew Becker (Co-task group leader), Steve Walker, Joe Champelli, Joe Golden, Paul Zagajski, Duane Wilson, and Julian Hoare*

Steve Serafin reported that there are words on paper. There is also a google doc for all to contribute to. They have been meeting regularly and are making good progress.

#### **7 New business**

There was discussion of sharing google doc links in the minutes. The consensus was not to have those links to task group documents in the minutes. Task group documents are often messy. The links can be provided at the task group's discretion.

#### **8 Other business and announcements**

Dan Culhane asked people to please pay their \$100 participation fee. We are all in need of funding, and ESTA in particular.

##### **8.1 Above & Beyond Awards**

Attendees were reminded that information on the Above & Beyond Awards may be found at [http://tsp.esta.org/tsp/news/award\\_recipients.html](http://tsp.esta.org/tsp/news/award_recipients.html). The nomination site is open year round, and the award is designed for members to highlight the work of their peers.

##### **8.2 USITT Risk Assessment project**

Jerry Gorrell said he expected to have a draft for the USITT committee, but the courts are now open and he has been very busy as an expert witness—so no document right now.

#### **9 Schedule for future meetings**

The meeting schedule is normally posted at <http://www.esta.org/ESTA/meetings.php>. Karl Ruling said nothing is scheduled there now, but he expects there to be a full meeting schedule for January 2021. The meetings will be via WebEx.

#### **10 Adjournment**

Bruce Darden moved that the meeting adjourn. The motion was seconded. The agenda was complete, so Dan Culhane declared the meeting adjourned at 10:34.

Stage Machinery Working Group members as of 9 November 2020

Delegate	Company	Representing	Voting status	Int. cat.
Jesse Adams	Rose Brand	Rose Brand Wipers, Inc	P	DR
Nils Becker	Electronic Theatre Controls, Inc.	Electronic Theatre Controls, Inc.	P	MP
Drew Becker	InterAmerica Stage, Inc.	InterAmerica Stage, Inc.	A	CP
Justin Bennett	University of the Incarnate Word	University of the Incarnate Word	O	U
David Bond	Kinesys	Tait Towers Manufacturing LLC	A	CP
William Bradburn	Aerial Arts, Inc.	Aerial Arts, Inc.	O	U
Daniel Brinker	Michigan Opera Theatre	USITT	P	G
Mike Brubaker	Associated Controls & Design	CM Buck Associates	P	DR
Paul Brunner	Thern, Inc.	Thern, Inc.	P	MP
Joseph Champelli	Entertainment Project Services, LLC	Entertainment Project Services, LLC	P	CP
Gareth Conner	Creative Conners, Inc.	Creative Conners, Inc.	P	MP
Dan Culhane	J.R. Clancy, Inc.	Wenger Corp.	P	MP
Bruce Darden	InterAmerica Stage, Inc.	InterAmerica Stage, Inc.	P	CP
Robert Dean	ZFX, Inc.	ZFX, Inc.	P	CP
Jim Digby	Event Safety Alliance	Event Safety Alliance	O	U
Bruce Downer	SERAPID, Inc.	SERAPID, Inc.	P	CP
Nathan Dye	Texas Scenic Company	Texas Scenic Company	P	CP
Joshua "Fritz" Friedensohn	Entertainment Project Services, LLC	Entertainment Project Services, LLC	A	CP
Mike Garl	Mike Garl Consulting LLC	Mike Garl Consulting LLC	exf	
Sanford P. Gilzow	Shur-Rig LLC	Shur-Rig LLC	P	DR
Joe Golden	Gallagher Staging	Gallagher Staging & Productions	P	DR
Jerry Gorrell	Theatre Safety Programs	Theatre Safety Programs	P	G
Erin Grabe	ESTA	ESTA	exf	G

Stage Machinery Working Group members as of 9 November 2020

Delegate	Company	Representing	Voting status	Int. cat.
Robert Haycock	Cal Performances	UC Berkeley	O	U
Phil Heid	Creative Stage Lighting Co., Inc.	Creative Stage Lighting Co., Inc.	O	DR
Julian Hoare	Tait Towers	Tait Towers Manufacturing LLC	P	CP
Jeremy Hodgson	Jeremy Hodgson	Jeremy Hodgson	I	G
Joseph Jeremy	Niscon Inc.	Show Distribution Group, Inc.	P	CP
Edwin S. Kramer	1501	1501	O	U
Dan Lisowski	Dept. Of Theatre and Drama	University of Wisconsin - Madison	O	U
Jim Love	Tait Towers	Tait Towers Manufacturing LLC	A	CP
Franco Magliozzi	Chubb Group of Insurance Companies	Chubb Group of Insurance Companies	O	G
Wendy Manson	Wendy Manson	Wendy Manson	O	G
Bill McIntyre	Niscon Inc.	Show Distribution Group, Inc.	A	CP
Rick Montgomery	Motion Laboratories, Inc.	Motion Laboratories, Inc.	A	MP
Reid Neslage	H & H Specialties Inc.	H & H Specialties Inc.	P	MP
Jim Niesel	Theatre Projects Consultants, Inc.	Theatre Projects Consultants, Inc.	A	DE
Michael Nishball	Theatre Projects Consultants, Inc.	Theatre Projects Consultants, Inc.	P	DE
Richard J. Nix	Richard J. Nix	Richard J. Nix	I	G
Richard J. Nix	ESTA	ESTA	exf	G
Kurt Pragman	Pragman Associates, LLC	Pragman Associates, LLC	O	G
Eric Rouse	Entertainment Project Services, LLC	Entertainment Project Services, LLC	A	CP
Karl G. Ruling	ESTA	ESTA	exf	G
Peter A. Scheu	Scheu Consulting Services, Inc.	Amer. Society of Theatre Consultants	P	DE
Steven Serafin	The Hartford Group	The Hartford Group	P	G
Michael Shaw	Motion Laboratories, Inc.	Motion Laboratories, Inc.	P	MP

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Delegate	Company	Representing	Voting status	Int. cat.
Zachary Stevenson	University of North Carolina School of the Arts	University of North Carolina School of the Arts	P	U
Peter V. Svitavsky	J.R. Clancy, Inc.	Wenger Corp.	A	MP
Christopher B. Tilton	About the Stage, LLC	About the Stage, LLC	P	DE
Michael Wade	Creative Conners, Inc.	Creative Conners, Inc.	A	MP
Steve Walker	Steve A. Walker & Associates	Steve A. Walker & Associates	P	DE
R. Duane Wilson	George C. Izenour Associates	Amer. Society of Theatre Consultants	A	DE
Jeong Sik Yoo	Ghost LX	Ghost LX	O	DE
Andrew Young	San Diego State University	Andrew Young	I	U
Paul Zagajeski	J.R. Clancy, Inc.	Wenger Corp.	A	MP

**Key to interest categories**

- CP = Custom market producer
- DE = Designer
- DR = Dealer rental company
- G = General interest
- MP = Mass-market producer
- U = User

**Voting status key**

- P = Principal voter
- A = Alternate voter
- I = Individual voter
- O = Observer (non-voter)
- exf = ex officio (staff)