

Minutes
Weapons Safety Working Group
Friday, 20 January 2023
via WebEx only

Chairpersons:

Stephen Vanciel; Stephen Vanciel; I; EW (presiding)
Mal Boland; Boland Production Supply; P; U
Ethan W Gilson; Entertainment Rigging Services, LLC; P; G

Recording secretary:

Karl Ruling and Richard Nix (ESTA)

Attendees:

Keith Sklar; Actors' Equity Association; P; U
Kevin Amick; IATSE Local 479; P; EW
Dominic Housiaux; Lankey & Limey, LTD; P; EVP
Robert Haycock; Robert Haycock; I; G
Mike Skinner; Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers; P; EVP
Nathan Wilkinson; Actors' Equity Association; P; U
Dutch Merrick; Prop Gun Set Safety; P; EW
Michael Powers; Michael Powers; I; EW
Kevin Inouye; Fight Designer, LLC; P; DE
Marco Robles; I.A.T.S.E. Local 80; P; EW
Larry Zanoff; Independent Studio Services (ISS); P; DR
Daniel Mori; City of Northglenn; P; EW
Don Cooper; Event Safety Alliance; P; G

Visitors:

Erin Grabe (ESTA)

1 Opening Remarks

Steve Vanciel called the meeting to order at 11:05, welcoming everyone to this momentous gathering on the subject matter, which – only yesterday – we were reminded of with charges being formally levied in the Rust incident. He introduced himself, Mal Boland, and Ethan Gilson, all as the co-chairpersons for this working group. He shared his screen to show how the P&P documents, published standards, and other useful documents can be accessed on the website.

2 Patent and anti-trust statements

2.1 Reading of the anti-trust statement

Ethan Gilson 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 up the pamphlet in front of his camera for all to see.

2.2 Reading of the call for patents

Ethan Gilson 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

Ethan Gilson 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.

3.2 Introduction of attendees

Steve Vanciel suggested what people might want to say as part of their introductions. He called each attendee's name, each introduced themselves, then gave a brief description of their background, affiliations, and subject matter history. After introductions, Steve Vanciel said that we have a lot of firearms experts, but seem to lack people with edged-weapons experience. Kevin Inouye said that he also had stage combat, fight choreography, and sword experience. Steve Vanciel suggested that everyone reach out to other SME's they know, to ask if they might be interested in joining this working group.

3.3 Establishing the initial consensus voting body

This is the working group's first meeting. The Technical Standards Council have appointed Mal Boland, Steve Vanciel, and Ethan Gilson as co-chairpersons. The chairpersons must appoint at least four (other) voting members in order to meet the initial working group voting member requirement, the quorum for meeting purposes, and supermajority for voting purposes. The appointments shall be made from those applicants present at today's meeting. The applicants are shown in item 3.4.

The co-chairpersons declared that all applicants present and applying for voting status were appointed.

3.4 Processing of new membership and status change requests

As the working group's first voting action, the remaining applications (if any) from 3.3 must be approved by a simple-majority vote.

*Stephen Vanciel; Stephen Vanciel; I; EW [co-chairperson appointed by TSC]
Ethan Gilson; Entertainment Rigging Services, LLC; P; G [co-chairperson appointed by TSC]
Mal Boland; Boland Production Supply; P; EW [co-chairperson appointed by TSC; checked U on form, should it be EW or EQP based on experience?]
Kevin Amick; I.A.T.S.E. Local 479; P; EW
Matthew Antonucci; CSATF; P; G (not present, Observer)
Michael Skinner; Alliance of Motion Picture & Television Producers (AMPTP); P; G [consider changing to EP, since he represents Producers]
Keith Sklar; Actors' Equity Association; P; U
M. Nathan Wilkinson; Actors' Equity Association; A; U
Brian M. Reed; Brian M. Reed; I; EW (not present, Observer)
Dominic Housiaux; Lankey and Limey Ltd; P; EP
Marco Robles; I.A.T.S.E. Local 80; P; EW
Dutch Merrick; Prop Gun Set Safety; P; EW
Kevin Inouye; Fight Designer, LLC; P; DE [checked I on form, but changed to P]
Michael Powers; Michael Powers; I; EW [checked P on form, but represents self]
Larry Zanoff; Independent Studio Services (ISS); P; DR
Robert Haycock; Robert Haycock; I; G
Daniel Mori; City of Northglenn, CO; P; EW [checked I on form, but representing City of Northglenn?]
David Gonzalez; David Gonzalez; I; DE (not present, Observer)*

There was discussion about interest categories, and some were adjusted.

Dutch Merrick moved to approve the applications as amended, with those not present and applying for voting status being approved as Observers. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously, without objection or abstentions.

3.5 Determination of a quorum and supermajority

A quorum is q>1/3 of the total consensus voting body; a supermajority is s>1/2 of the total consensus voting body.

3.6 New consensus voting body

The consensus body as established by this meeting's actions is as follows:

| Name | Representing | Status | Int cat |
|--|---|------------------------------|-----------|
| Keith Sklar | Actors' Equity Association | P | U |
| Nathan Wilkinson | Actors' Equity Association | A | U |
| Mike Skinner | Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers | P | EVP |
| Mal Boland | Boland Production Supply | P | EQP |
| Daniel Mori | City of Northglenn | P | EW |
| Ethan W Gilson | Entertainment Rigging Services, LLC | P | G |
| Donald Cooper | Event Safety Alliance (ESA) | P | G |
| Kevin Inouye | Fight Designer, LLC | P | DE |
| Marco Robles | I.A.T.S.E. Local 80 | P | EW |
| Kevin Amick | IATSE Local 479 | P | EW |
| Larry Zanolff | Independent Studio Services (ISS) | P | DR |
| Dominic Housiaux | Lankey & Limey, LTD | P | EVP |
| Michael Powers | Michael Powers | I | EW |
| Dutch Merrick | Prop Gun Set Safety | P | EW |
| Robert Haycock | Robert Haycock | I | G |
| Stephen Vanciel | Stephen Vanciel | I | EW |
| | | Total possible votes: | 15 |
| Total votes by interest category: | Designer (DE): | | 1 |
| | Dealer or rental company (DR): | | 1 |
| | General interest (G): | | 3 |
| | Equipment producer (EQP): | | 1 |
| | Event producer (EP): | | 2 |
| | Event worker (EW): | | 6 |
| | Insurance providers (I): | | 0 |
| | User (U): | | 1 |

4 Approval of agenda

The agenda must be approved, either as drafted or with modifications, by a vote of the working group.

Robert Haycock moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded, and carried without objection or abstentions.

5 New business

5.1 Weapons Safety project outline and discussion

What are the next steps moving forward?

Steve Vanciel displayed the initial project scope as was written on the PINS form, asking for opinions.

Dutch Merrick moved to adopt the initial project scope. The motion was seconded. There was discussion.

Michael Powers asked if a section should be added for blanks. Dan Mori Suggested the scope should include objects used for simulated acts of violence, such as a frying pan. *“Other objects used for simulated acts of violence”* was added.

Larry Zanoff asked about props that might be rigged as a weapon (Sweeney Gun). He suggested we want to only cover what’s being used on-camera, and not cover anything not on-camera, as this was a sticking point in California’s legislative discussions. Robert Haycock asked if scope should include off-camera, since they can also be dangerous.

Nathan Wilkinson suggested clarification for “prop firearms and those that look like firearms.”

Dutch Merrick asked to include “safe use and handling storage”, and simulated or actual firearms.

Ethan Gilson asked if filmed events were treated the same as video, Dutch said yes, and there might be a delineation between live and fake gunfire. He also asked if Theme Parks should be included. Kevin Inouye suggested replacing the word “filmed” with “recorded”. Michael Powers asked if the scope should include live broadcast.

Robert Haycock asked if powder actuated fasteners were being used, Mal Boland said yes. Dutch Merrick voiced opposition to including them when used for set construction.

Michael Powers said the document needs a stringent chain of custody section.

Dan Inouye said he thinks this standard might need to be object specific, regardless of which department is responsible for handling the object. Dutch Merrick agreed.

Steve Vanciel suggested there had been enough discussion and notes to revise wording for a good scope outline. He suggested that the working group take some time to consider it, for finalizing at the next meeting. He then moved on to other notes he had about currently available documents relating to this subject matter. They will be distributed with the draft minutes.

He said that this project can be undertaken as a working group project, but that it could also be divided up into smaller scope tasks, which could be addressed concurrently by forming one or more task groups. He asked if the group wanted to do this. There was discussion, with the consensus being that everyone will review the minutes and other distributed documents, then decide what to do at the next meeting.

6 Other business and announcements

Don Cooper submitted a working group application during the meeting. Michael Powers moved to accept it. The motion was seconded, and approved without objection or abstentions.

6.1 Above & Beyond Awards

Information on the Above & Beyond Awards may be found at 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.

9 Schedule for future meetings

The meeting schedule may be found at <http://www.esta.org/ESTA/meetings.php>. The next meeting will be held during the 2023 NAMM Show, in Anaheim, CA during the week of 10 April 2023. The summer meetings will be held at the Marriott DFW Westlake, during the week of 24 July 2023.

10 Adjournment

Steve Vanciel adjourned the meeting at 12:57.

Weapons Safety Working Group members as of 20 January 2023

| Name | Representing | Status | Int cat |
|-------------------|---|---------------|----------------|
| Kevin Amick | IATSE Local 479 | P | EW |
| Matthew Antonucci | Contract Services Administration Trust Fund | O | G |
| Mal Boland | Boland Production Supply | P | U |
| Donald Cooper | Event Safety Alliance (ESA) | P | G |
| Ethan W Gilson | Entertainment Rigging Services, LLC | P | G |
| Dave Gonzalez | Dave Gonzalez | O | D |
| Robert Haycock | Robert Haycock | I | G |
| Dominic Housiaux | Lankey & Limey, LTD | P | EVP |
| Kevin Inouye | Fight Designer, LLC | P | DE |
| Dutch Merrick | Prop Gun Set Safety | P | EW |
| Daniel Mori | City of Northglenn | P | EW |
| Michael Powers | Michael Powers | I | EW |
| Brian Reed | Brian M. Reed | O | EW |
| Marco Robles | I.A.T.S.E. Local 80 | P | EW |
| Mike Skinner | Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers | P | EVP |
| Keith Sklar | Actors' Equity Association | P | U |
| Stephen Vanciel | Stephen Vanciel | I | EW |
| Nathan Wilkinson | Actors' Equity Association | P | U |
| Larry Zanoff | Independent Studio Services (ISS) | P | DR |