

Minutes
Weapons Safety Working Group
Thursday, 20 July 2023
Marriott D/FW Westlake - Westlake, TX

Chairpersons:

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

Recording secretaries:

Karl Ruling and Richard Nix (ESTA)

Attendees:

Kevin Amick; IATSE Local 479; P; EW
Jane Harrington, ARM; The Hartford Group; P; INS
Dave Brown; I.A.T.S.E. Local 856; P; U
Robert Haycock; Robert Haycock; I; G
Dominic Housiaux; Lankey & Limey, LTD; P; EVP
Kevin Inouye; Fight Designer, LLC; P; DE
Kent Jorgensen; I.A.T.S.E. (International); P; EW
Stephen Koepfer; Breakfall Studios; P; U
Dutch Merrick; Prop Gun Set Safety; P; EW
Patricio (Pat) Perez; SAG AFTRA; P; U
Michael Powers; Michael Powers; I; EW
Marco Robles; I.A.T.S.E. Local 80; P; EW
Bob Shelley; I.A.T.S.E. Local 479; P; EQP
Mike Skinner; Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers; P; EVP
Keith Sklar; Actors' Equity Association; P; U
Angela Whiting; I.A.T.S.E. Local 44; P; EW
Nathan Wilkinson; Actors' Equity Association; P; U

Visitors:

Jeff Egan; NBC Universal
Eric Warden; Encore Global
Mike Weston; Encore Global

1 Opening Remarks

Ethan Gilson called the meeting to order at 14:05. He welcomed everyone, thanking them for taking time to attend, online or here, in balmy Texas.

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.

Richard Nix held up the pamphlet.

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 called on each attendee to introduce themselves.

3.3 Determination of a quorum and supermajority

There are currently 25 possible votes. A quorum is 9, a supermajority is 13.

Richard Nix confirmed that the requirements for both were met.

3.4 Processing of new membership and status change requests

As of 06 July 2023, the following applications have been received:

*Stephen Koepfer; Breakfall Studios; P; U (status change request)
Angela Whiting; I.A.T.S.E Local 44; P; EW (status change request)*

Steve Vanciel moved to approve the status change request. The motion was seconded, and carried without discussion, objection, or abstention

3.5 Status changes

Changes between voting status and Observer status can occur voluntarily by status change request, or as an automatic action, by missing three consecutive meetings or three consecutive letter ballots. Persons changing representation automatically lose membership status, and must reapply to the working group. All of these situations will be addressed in this part of the agenda.

There are none.

3.6 Consensus voting body

This is the consensus body after changes effected by this meeting's actions:

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
Stephen Koepfer	Breakfall Studios	P	U
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
Robert Haycock	Robert Haycock	I	G
Kent Jorgensen	I.A.T.S.E. (International)	P	EW
Angela Whiting	I.A.T.S.E. Local 44	P	EW
Marco Robles	I.A.T.S.E. Local 80	P	EW
Kevin Amick	IATSE Local 479	P	EW
Dave Brown	I.A.T.S.E. Local 856	P	U
Larry Zanoft	Independent Studio Services (ISS)	P	DR
Dominic Housiaux	Lankey & Limey, LTD	P	EVP
Michael Powers	Michael Powers	I	EW
Barbara Kastner	Motion Picture Studio Mechanics Local 52	P	U
Dutch Merrick	Prop Gun Set Safety	P	EW
Pat Perez	SAG-AFTRA	P	U
Sandy Gilzow	Shur-Rig LLC	P	DR
Robb Hunter	Society of American Fight Directors (SAFD)	P	DE
Bob Shelley	Special Effects International, Inc	P	EQP
Jane Harrington, ARM	The Hartford	P	INS
Richard Levin	Warner Bros. Discovery	P	EVP
Stephen Vanciel	Stephen Vanciel	I	EW
Total possible votes:		26	
Total votes by interest category:	Designer (DE):	2	
	Dealer or rental company (DR):	2	
	General interest (G):	3	
	Equipment producer (EQP):	2	
	Event producer (EVP):	3	
	Event worker (EW):	8	
	Insurance providers (INS):	1	
	User (U):	5	

4 Approval of the minutes from the last meeting

[See *WSWG_04-2023_Minutes_Draft.pdf*]

Robert Haycock moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded and carried without discussion, objection, or abstention.

5 Approval of the agenda

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

6 Old business

[See *DRAFT Weapons Safety In Entertainment_Outline.pdf*]

This is an outline document only, for reference when discussing items 6.1, 6.2, and 7.1.

6.1 Firearms and projectile weapons

Kent Jorgensen (task group leader), Dutch Merrick, Marco Robles, Barbara Kastner, Dave Brown, Bob Shelley, Mal Boland, and Steve Vanciel

Any news or action?

Kent Jorgensen reported. He asked about prior scope exclusions for sports weapons, etc. and wondered if considerations for staff and crew should be (re)considered. He said that having a protocol for crew safety during a competition would be good. Dutch Merrick suggested that we at least mention that CSATF guidelines exist for live firearms and crew safety.

Robert Haycock suggested this could be under the purview of its own separate standard. Karl Ruling suggested that we be mindful of scope creep. Dutch Merrick said that blank-fire and live-fire issues are addressed, but thought that a paragraph could be added to address live firearms used in sporting events, etc.

Angela Whiting agreed that there should be something to address live firearms outside of the purview of props.

Kent Jorgensen said he represents people who work in broadcasting, so this topic is relevant. Further, he said that concern for injury is important, not just fatalities.

Ethan Gilson said the New England Patriots have pregame exhibitions involving team mascots firing weapons, with broadcast production personnel in close proximity while trying to get commercial footage.

Kevin Inouye said he would prefer that we stick to prop weapons.

Steve Vanciel shared his screen to display a markup copy of the working draft, into which he'd inserted some thoughts for discussion.

The name of the standard was discussed, with it being suggested that this should be "Entertainment Technology — Prop Weapons Safety. Dutch Merrick said the working title is a solid start. We can decide later to expand, if needed

Angela Whiting agreed, saying the prop weapons term is very descriptive.

Steve Vanciel highlighted the scope exclusions, asking "*what about personal weapons on stage?*" Is there an intent to make the stage area "sterile". Angela agreed. Dutch said they had had a lot of discussion about this, agreeing that we would not address this because it potentially encroaches on state laws, which vary between jurisdictions.

There was long discussion of what the standard should cover and the possibility of requiring the use of risk assessment to help people decide what risks are they must address. This could help separate rules and protections needed for airsoft guns as opposed to firearms that shoot bullets. Dutch Merrick suggested that we treat them as firearms. Angela Whiting said they should be treated separately.

Ethan mentioned the potential and likelihood of harm. Steve Vanciel asked, rhetorically, then how is a prop firearm different than an Airsoft, suggesting that the likelihood of fatal injury was far less with an Airsoft than with a firearm. The working group consensus was that the task groups will sort this out.

6.2 All other weapons

*Kevin Inouye (task group leader), Robb Hunter, and Steve Vanciel.
[See Draft Minutes WSWG Subcommittee June 29 2023.pdf]*

The task group has provided an interim update on their activities to-date, for coordination with other discussions. Any news or action?

Kevin Inouye reported, they are still working on scope. Since this is not a "firearms" task group, they need to know what would fall into that classification.

There was discussion of other groups and parties to be invited to participate. Angela Whiting and Pat Perez both volunteered, so Steve Vanciel appointed them to the all other weapons" task group.

Ethan Gilson asked about task group reflectors. Richard Nix said that it's up to the task group leaders to maintain their own lists of participants, and to manage their internal communications as they see fit.

Richard Nix thanked Kevin Inouye for providing his written progress report, saying that the task groups are not obliged to provide written reports, but it can be helpful for the working group discussions. Providing them is at the task group leader's discretion.

He also noted that Bob Shelley had sent his *Prop Weapons On Stage* training manual to share with the group, adding that it's been uploaded to the working group's document library.

7 New business

7.1 Separation of initial PINS

The initial PINS filing was for a single project. Does the working group wish to formally separate it into two distinct projects?

Dutch Merrick asked what this means. Richard explained the advantages and disadvantages of splitting the project now. Dutch said he didn't think it was necessary at this point. Kevin agreed. The consensus was to continue as one official project and split it later when that seems prudent. There was no action or further discussion needed.

8 Other business

8.1 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.

8.2 Schedule for future meetings

The meeting schedule may be found at <http://www.esta.org/ESTA/meetings.php>. The next meeting will be held at the Marriott DFW Westlake, during the week of 02 October 2023. The Winter meetings will return to Anaheim, CA in conjunction with the NAMM Show 2024.

10 Adjournment

The agenda business being finished, no other business brought forth, Ethan Gilson declared the meeting adjourned at 15:47.

Weapons Safety Working Group members as of 20 July 2023

Name	Representing	Status	Int cat
Kevin Amick	IATSE Local 479	P	EW
Matthew Antonucci	Contract Services Administration Trust Fund	O	G
Jane Harrington, ARM	The Hartford Group	P	INS
Mal Boland	Boland Production Supply	P	U
Dave Brown	I.A.T.S.E. Local 856	P	U
Donald Cooper	Event Safety Alliance	P	G
Ethan W Gilson	Entertainment Rigging Services, LLC	P	G
Sanford P. Gilzow	Shur-Rig LLC	P	DR
Dave Gonzalez	Dave Gonzalez	O	DE
Robert Haycock	Robert Haycock	I	G
Dominic Housiaux	Lankey & Limey, LTD	P	EVP
Robb Hunter	Society of American Fight Directors	P	DE
Kevin Inouye	Fight Designer, LLC	P	DE
Kent Jorgensen	I.A.T.S.E. (International)	P	EW
Barbara Kastner	Motion Picture Studio Mechanics Local 52	P	U
Stephen Koepfer	Breakfall Studios	P	U
Richard J Levin	Warner Bros. Discovery	P	EVP
Dutch Merrick	Prop Gun Set Safety	P	EW
Daniel Mori	City of Northglenn	P	EW
Patricio (Pat) Perez	SAG AFTRA	P	U
Michael Powers	Michael Powers	I	EW
Brian Reed	Brian M. Reed	O	EW
Marco Robles	I.A.T.S.E. Local 80	P	EW
Bob Shelley	I.A.T.S.E. Local 479	P	EQP
Mike Skinner	Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers	P	EVP
Keith Sklar	Actors' Equity Association	P	U
Stephen Vanciel	Stephen Vanciel	I	EW
Angela Whiting	I.A.T.S.E. Local 44	P	EW
Nathan Wilkinson	Actors' Equity Association	P	U
Larry Zanoff	Independent Studio Services (ISS)	P	DR

Status:

O=Observer; P = Principal; A = Alternate

Interest categories:

DR = Dealer or rental company
 EVP = Event producer
 U = User

G = General interest
 EW = Event worker

EQP = Equipment producer
 INS = Insurance providers