

Minutes
Weapons Safety Working Group
Saturday, 27 January 2024
Wyndham Anaheim - Anaheim, CA

Chairpersons:

Stephen Vanciel; Stephen Vanciel; I; EW (presiding)
Ethan W Gilson; Entertainment Rigging Services, LLC; P; G

Recording secretaries:

Erin Grabe, Karl Ruling, and Richard Nix (ESTA)

Attendees:

Jane Harrington, ARM; The Hartford Group; P; INS
Dave Brown; I.A.T.S.E. Local 856; P; U
Donald Cooper; Event Safety Alliance; P; G
Wade Cordts; Wade Cordts; I; U
Meghan Guastella; Actors' Equity Association; A; U
Robert Haycock; Robert Haycock; I; G
Dominic Housiaux; Lankey & Limey, LTD; P; EVP
Kent Jorgensen; I.A.T.S.E. (International); P; EW
Stephen Koepfer; Breakfall Studios; P; U
William "Brady" Majors; Brady Majors; I; DE
Dutch Merrick; Prop Gun Set Safety; P; EW
Patricio (Pat) Perez; SAG AFTRA; P; U
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

1 Opening Remarks

Steve Vanciel called the meeting to order at 10:01 Pacific time, welcoming everyone to Anaheim and its good weather. He noted that the turnout is good, and we're looking for a good meeting today.

2 Patent and anti-trust statements

2.1 Reading of the anti-trust statement

Steve Vanciel 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 the pamphlet aloft for all to see.

2.2 Reading of the call for patents

Steve Vanciel 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

Steve Vanciel 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. New applications shall not be considered until the participation fee is paid. 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

3.3 Determination of a quorum and supermajority

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

3.4 Processing of new membership and status change requests

As of today's meeting, the following applications have been received:

*William "Brady" Majors; William "Brady" Majors; I; DE (new application)
Wade Cordts; Wade Cortts; I; U (new application)*

Robert Haycock moved to approve the new applicants. The motion was seconded. The two applicants briefly described their backgrounds. The motion carried without 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.

3.5.1 Changes due to attendance

The following voting members have missed two consecutive meetings. Their voting status will be changed to Observer if they are not present for today's meeting.

*Don Cooper; Event Safety Alliance
Larry Zanoff; ISS
Barbera Kastner; I.A. T.S.E. Local 52
Sanford P. Gilzow; Shur-Rig LLC
Robb Hunter; SAFD*

Don Cooper was present. The others were not, resulting in change of status as noted.

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
Meghan Guastella	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
Wade Cordts	Wade Cordts	I	U

Name	Representing	Status	Int cat
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
Bob Shelley	I.A.T.S.E. Local 479	P	EW
Kevin Amick	I.A.T.S.E. Local 479	A	EW
Dave Brown	I.A.T.S.E. Local 856	P	U
Dominic Housiaux	Lankey & Limey, LTD	P	EVP
William (Brady) Majors	Brady Majors	I	DE
Michael Powers	Michael Powers	I	EW
Dutch Merrick	Prop Gun Set Safety	P	EW
Pat Perez	SAG-AFTRA	P	U
Jane Harrington, ARM	The Hartford	P	INS
Richard Levin	Warner Bros. Discovery	P	EVP
Stephen Vanciel	Stephen Vanciel	I	EW
Total possible votes:		22	
Total votes by interest category:	Designer (DE):	1	
	Dealer or rental company (DR):	0	
	General interest (G):	3	
	Equipment producer (EQP):	2	
	Event producer (EVP):	3	
	Event worker (EW):	7	
	Insurance providers (INS):	1	
	User (U):	5	

4 Approval of the minutes from the last meeting

[See WSWGmin10-2023_Draft.pdf]

Kent Jorgensen moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded, and carried without objection or abstentions.

5 Approval of the agenda

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

6 Old business

6.1 Firearms and projectile weapons

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

Any news or action?

Kent Jorgensen reported. They have been meeting, and discussing the extent of available information from sources such as contract services, etc. They feel that their direction should take the approach of “direct rules with broad coverage.”

There was discussion about making the language as internationally applicable as possible.

There was discussion about various applicable concepts, such as devices that store, then release, energy as a

function of operation. Examples (in addition to firearms, per se) are bow and arrow, BB guns, etc.

There was discussion about chain of custody and transfer of liability. There are many levels of roles and responsibilities. There is a difference between being asked to use a firearm (weapon) as a function of one's job, and all other circumstances. Such distinctions need to be made clear. There also was discussion about the responsibility of the multiple individuals involved in a scene or event using weapons. What responsibility does a performer have? If the performer is to be trained in firearm safety, does it make sense to then say that person has no responsibility for firearm safety? The training might be less effective if the person believes it has no purpose.

There was more discussion about the various special effect methodologies used that may or may not be construed as weapons-like.

The discussion continued for nearly an hour, covering a gamut of concepts, examples, and situational circumstances. Everyone present agreed that the discussion was very productive. The working group is filled with knowledgeable and passionate experts.

6.2 All other weapons

Kevin Inouye (task group leader), Robb Hunter, and Steve Vanciel, Angela Whiting, Pat Perez, Dominic Housiaux, and Meghan Guastella.

Any news or action?

Steve Vanciel said that Kevin Inouye has had to excuse himself from task group leadership, so we need a replacement. Steve said he'd asked Robb Hunter, but Robb is traveling today. He asked for volunteers from the existing task group. Email Steve Vanciel if you are willing to assist.

He noted that a task group update had been uploaded to the working group's listfile page for this meeting. Please download it for review between now and the next meeting.

SAFETY TIPS FOR USE OF WEAPONS (Verbiage for non-projectile weapon props.pdf) was discussed. It has a lot of advice that could be used in recommendations for projectile weapons. This led to a discussion of whether we are developing one standard or two? The consensus was that there is a lot of overlap, but we need to get the documents written, at least in rough draft, to see how they might be fitted together into one document. Richard Nix said today's discussions show that coordination issues are beginning to work themselves out as a function of thoughtful discourse. Steve Vanciel said that both he and Dominic Housiaux are on both task groups, and will help pay attention to this.

Objections were raised to the use of "Talent" to mean performer in the document. It suggests that people who are not performers do not have talent and that all performers are talented. "Talent" is a term that is common in parts of the US entertainment industry, but not in all.

7 New business

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 in Seattle, WA in conjunction with the USITT conference, during the week of 18 March 2024. The Summer meetings will be held in New York City, in conjunction with the NATEAC conference, during the week of 08 July 2024. The Fall meetings will return to Westlake, TX, dates TBC.

10 Adjournment

Having arrived at the end of the agenda, Steve Vanciel adjourned the meeting at 12:10.

Weapons Safety Working Group members as of 27 January 2024

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
Wade Cordts	Wade Cordts	I	U
Ethan W Gilson	Entertainment Rigging Services, LLC	P	G
Sanford P. Gilzow	Shur-Rig LLC	O	DR
Meghan Guastella	Actors' Equity Association	A	U
Robert Haycock	Robert Haycock	I	G
Dominic Housiaux	Lankey & Limey, LTD	P	EVP
Robb Hunter	Society of American Fight Directors	O	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	O	U
Stephen Koepfer	Breakfall Studios	P	U
Richard J Levin	Warner Bros. Discovery	P	EVP
William "Brady" Majors	Brady Majors	I	DE
Dutch Merrick	Prop Gun Set Safety	P	EW
Daniel Mori	City of Northglenn	O	EW
Patricio (Pat) Perez	SAG AFTRA	P	U
Michael Powers	Michael Powers	I	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	A	U
Larry Zano	Independent Studio Services (ISS)	O	DR