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Entertainment Services and Technology Association
ESTA
630 Ninth Avenue, Suite 609
New York, NY 10036
USA
Phone: 1-212-244-1505
Fax: 1-212-244-1502
Email: standards@esta.org
The ESTA Technical Standards Program was created to serve the ESTA membership and the entertainment industry in technical standards related matters. The goal of the Program is to take a leading role regarding technology within the entertainment industry by creating recommended practices and standards, monitoring standards issues around the world on behalf of our members, and improving communications and safety within the industry. ESTA works closely with the technical standards efforts of other organizations within our industry, including USITT and VPLT, as well as representing the interests of ESTA members to ANSI, UL, and the NFPA. The Technical Standards Program is accredited by the American National Standards Institute.

The Technical Standards Council (TSC) was established to oversee and coordinate the Technical Standards Program. Made up of individuals experienced in standards-making work from throughout our industry, the Council approves all projects undertaken and assigns them to the appropriate working group. The Technical Standards Council employs a Technical Standards Manager to coordinate the work of the Council and its working groups as well as maintain a “Standards Watch” on behalf of members. Working groups include: Control Protocols, Electrical Power, Event Safety, Floors, Fog and Smoke, Followspot Position, Photometrics, Rigging, and Stage Lifts.

ESTA encourages active participation in the Technical Standards Program. There are several ways to become involved. If you would like to become a member of an existing working group, as have over four hundred people, complete an application which is available from http://tsp.esta.org/tsp/documents/procedural_docs.html. Your application is subject to approval by the working group and you will be required to actively participate in the work of the group. This includes responding to letter ballots and attending meetings. Membership in ESTA is not a requirement. You can also become involved by requesting that the TSC develop a standard or a recommended practice in an area of concern to you.

The Rigging Working Group, which authored this Standard, consists of a cross section of entertainment industry professionals representing a diversity of interests. ESTA is committed to developing consensus-based standards and recommended practices in an open setting.
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Contact Information

**Technical Standards Manager**
Karl G. Ruling  
ESTA  
630 Ninth Avenue, Suite 609  
New York, NY  10036  
USA  
+1-212-244-1505  
karl.ruling@esta.org

**Assistant Technical Standards Manager**
Richard J. Nix  
ESTA  
630 Ninth Avenue, Suite 609  
New York, NY  10036  
USA  
+1-212-244-1505  
richard.nix@esta.org

**Technical Standards Council Chairpersons**
Mike Garl  
Mike Garl Consulting LLC  
+1-865-389-4371  
 mike@mikegarlconsulting.com

Mike Wood  
Mike Wood Consulting LLC  
+1-512-288-4916  
 mike@mikewoodconsulting.com

**Rigging Working Group Co-chairpersons**
Bill Sapsis  
Sapsis Rigging  
+1-215-228-0888 x206  
bill@sapsis-rigging.com

Christine Kaiser  
Syracuse Scenery & Stage Lighting Co., Inc  
+1-315-453-8096  
ckaiser@syracusescenery.com
Acknowledgments

The Rigging Working Group members when this document was approved by the working group on 26 February 2020 are shown below.

Voting members:

Jacob Abbott; PSAV Presentation Services; U
Jesse Adams; Rose Brand Wipers, Inc; DR
Tracie Allen; T6 Truss Designs. LLC; CP
Dana Bartholomew; Silver State Wire Rope and Rigging; DR
Peter W. Batt; Mainstage Theatrical Supply, Inc; DR
Drew Becker; InterAmerica Stage, Inc.; CP
Ian Bevan; Walt Disney Company; DE
Keith Bohn; Area Four Industries; MP
David Bond; Tait Towers Manufacturing LLC; CP
Bennett Brian; Reed Rigging Inc.; DR
Paul Brunner; Thern, Inc.; MP
David Carmack; Columbus McKinnon Corp.; MP
Frederic Caron; Cirque Du Soleil, Inc; U
Joseph Champelli; Entertainment Project Services, LLC; CP
Lee Chuong; Walt Disney Company; DE
Jay Cid; R&M Materials Handling / Stagemaker; MP
Dan Culhane; Wenger Corp.; CP
Bruce Darden; InterAmerica Stage, Inc.; CP
Jonathan Deull; JSD Projects LLC; U
Tony Diemont; Texas Scenic Company; DR
Don Earl; Earl Girls, Inc.; DR
Nick Fleming; Columbus McKinnon Corp.; MP
Joshua “Fritz” Friedensohn; Entertainment Project Services, LLC; CP
Mike Garl; Mike Garl Consulting LLC; DE
Ethan W Gilson; Entertainment Rigging Services, LLC; U
Sanford P. Gilzow; Shur-Rig LLC; G
William B. Gorlin; M.G. McLaren, P.C.; G
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Pat Grenfell; Hoist Sales & Service; DR
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Tim Hansen; Oasis Stage Werks; DR
Robert Haycock; UC Berkeley; U
Jeremy Hodgson; Cirque Du Soleil, Inc.; U
Joseph Jeremy; Show Distribution Group, Inc.; CP
Christine L. Kaiser; Syracuse Scenery & Stage Lighting Co., Inc.; DR
Theresa Kelley; Xtreme Structures and Fabrication; MP
Edwin S. Kramer; I.A.T.S.E. Local 1; U
Ryan Kunkel; Tait Towers Manufacturing LLC; CP
Kyle Kusmer; Steven Schaefer Associates, Inc; DE
Tom Lapp; Cirque Du Soleil, Inc.; U
Kalen Larson; ZFX, Inc.; CP
Ed Leahy; Chicago Flyhouse, Inc; CP
Jon Lenard; Applied Electronics; MP
Michael Lichter; Electronic Theatre Controls, Inc.; MP
Ross Long; I.A.T.S.E. Local 891; U
Daniel H. Louis; Theta Consulting LLC; G
Bill McIntyre; Show Distribution Group, Inc.; CP
Mike Merz; Steven Schaefer Associates, Inc; DE
Sam Michael; Thern, Inc.; MP
Orestes Mihaly; Production Resource Group; DR
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<td>I Weiss; MP</td>
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<td>Jennifer Ferguson</td>
<td>Kito Group; MP</td>
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<td>Drew Wending</td>
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<td>Jeong Sik Yoo</td>
<td>Ghost LX; DE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andrew Young; Andrew Young</td>
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**Interest category codes:**

- **CP** = custom-market producer
- **DE** = designer
- **DR** = dealer rental company
- **G** = general interest
- **MP** = mass-market producer
- **U** = user
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1 Introduction
Entertainment rigging systems are systems used to move, lift or support scenery, luminaires, and other equipment in entertainment venues, such as theatres, video/film studios, amphitheatres, and arenas used for live performances or special events.

Routine inspection of entertainment rigging systems is required in order to provide a safe working environment and to comply with ANSI rigging standards. This document offers guidance to inform owners, users and inspectors about the process of inspecting entertainment rigging systems. ESTA has written this recommended practice to promote proper inspection of entertainment rigging systems, to enhance safety of system users and audiences, to enhance the longevity and performance of systems and identification of potential equipment problems, to assist in regulatory compliance, and to reduce liability associated with the operation of entertainment rigging systems.

The purpose of an entertainment rigging inspection is to provide information about the condition of the systems and components at the time of the inspection. Nothing should be inferred regarding the future performance of the system as a result of this inspection.

2 Scope of this document
This document covers the inspection of entertainment rigging systems. Rigging systems may be statically suspended (stationary) (dead hung) equipment, manually operated counterweight sets, manually operated hoist sets, rope and sandbag (hemp) sets, and electric hoist sets (including winding drum hoists, packaged hoists, powered counterweight sets). The document includes inspection of fire safety curtain systems, rigging only. Rigging systems frequently include combinations and variations of rigging types.

2.1 General
These guidelines include recommended inspector qualifications and responsibilities, scope and frequency of inspections, content of the rigging inspection report, and related information concerning the inspection process.

2.2 Exclusions
These guidelines do not pertain to the process of inspecting:

2.2.1 Performer flying rigging systems.

2.2.2 The building structure.

2.2.3 The building electrical infrastructure.

3 Definitions
Definitions contained in this section apply to this guideline. Where terms are not defined in this section, they should be defined using their ordinarily accepted dictionary meanings within the specific context of their use.

3.1 Inspector: The person engaging in the examination of entertainment rigging systems.

3.2 Lifting media: The load carrying element that is attached to the counterweight carriage or is driven by the hoist to move the load (e.g. wire rope, roller chain).

3.3 Limits of use: The parameters under which the system is designed to operate (e.g. working load limit, speed of movement, duty cycle, environmental conditions, user skill level, availability of maintenance).

3.4 Owner: The legal entity which exercises control over management and recordkeeping functions relating to a building and/or facility in which activities covered by this document take place.

3.5 Qualified person: A person who, by possession of a recognized degree or certificate of professional standing, or who, by extensive knowledge, training, and experience, has successfully demonstrated the ability to solve or resolve problems relating to the subject matter and work.