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The ESTA Technical Standards Program

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

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 two hundred people, you must complete an application which is available from the ESTA office. 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 Fog & Smoke 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. Future Fog & Smoke Working Group projects will include updating this publication as changes in technology and experience warrant, as well as developing new standards and recommended practices for the benefit of the entertainment industry.
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Acknowledgments

The Fog & Smoke Working Group was the consensus body for the development of this standard. The working group’s membership when the letter ballot closed on 19 April 2010 is shown below.

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Wendy Holt; Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers; U
Edwin S. Kramer; I.A.T.S.E. Local 1; U
Don Phillips; Ultratec Special Effects Inc.; MP
Larry Schoeneman; Designlab Chicago, Inc.; DR
Eric Tishman; Rosco Laboratories; MP
Mike Wood; Mike Wood Consulting LLC; G

Observer members

Robert Barbagallo; Solotech Inc.; U
Marty Clausen; Safety & Health in Arts Production Entertainment; G
Jim Cooper; Palomar College, representing USITT; U
Gary Crawford; CITC; MP
Gary Fails; City Theatrical, Inc.; MP
Lowell Fowler; High End Systems Inc.; MP
Douglas Franz; QVC Network; U
Reuben Goldberg; Technic Services; U
Jerry Gorrell; Theatre Safety Programs; G
Ulrich Borup Hansen; Martin Professional A/S; MP
Florian von Hofen; VPLT; G
Kent H. Jorgensen; IATSE Local 80; G
Nathan Kahn; Look Solutions USA Ltd.; MP
Stephanie Kelly; Phoenix Stages/Convention Center, City of Phoenix; G
Thomas V. Korder; Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, University of Illinois; U
Peggy Lee Martindale; University of Texas, Austin; G
Greg Meeh; Jauchem & Meeh, Inc.; DR
Martin Michaud; MDG Fog Generators Ltd.; MP
Monona Rossol; Arts, Crafts & Theater Safety; G
Adrian Segeren; Ultratec Special Effects Inc.; MP
Marnie Styles; Ultratec Special Effects Inc.; MP
Stephen Vanciel; U
Colin Waters; TMB; G
Norman Wright; Group One Ltd.; DR

Interest categories

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<tr>
<th>CP</th>
<th>Custom-market Producer</th>
<th>U</th>
<th>User</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>MP</td>
<td>Mass-market Producer</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>General Interest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DR</td>
<td>Dealer or Rental company</td>
<td>DE</td>
<td>Designer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table of Contents

Contact Information .......................................................................................................................... iii
Acknowledgments ............................................................................................................................ iv
1 General ............................................................................................................................................. 1
  1.1 Scope ........................................................................................................................................ 1
  1.2 Purpose .................................................................................................................................... 1
  1.3 Definitions ................................................................................................................................. 2
  1.4 Other standards, regulations, and references ........................................................................... 2
2 Personnel ....................................................................................................................................... 3
  2.1 Effect Designer ......................................................................................................................... 3
  2.2 Effect Operator ......................................................................................................................... 3
3 Design and planning of the fog effect and equipment use ............................................................. 3
  3.1 Selection of appropriate technology ......................................................................................... 3
    3.1.1 Visual effect desired .......................................................................................................... 3
    3.1.2 Resources to use the technology safely and effectively ................................................. 3
    3.1.3 Restrictions in choices by local regulations or house rules ............................................ 3
  3.2 Storage of materials ................................................................................................................ 4
    3.2.1 Temperature ...................................................................................................................... 4
    3.2.2 Avoidance of contamination ............................................................................................. 4
    3.2.3 Ventilation ....................................................................................................................... 4
    3.2.4 Access and egress ............................................................................................................. 4
  3.3 Siting of equipment .................................................................................................................. 4
    3.3.1 Access and egress ............................................................................................................. 4
    3.3.2 Protection from environmental hazards ............................................................................. 4
    3.3.3 Protection from unintended contact ................................................................................. 4
    3.3.4 Protection from heat and cold ............................................................................................ 4
  3.4 Equipment ............................................................................................................................... 4
    3.4.1 General ............................................................................................................................. 4
    3.4.2 Commercially manufactured standard equipment ............................................................ 4
    3.4.3 Custom equipment .......................................................................................................... 5
  3.5 Distribution of aerosol .............................................................................................................. 5
    3.5.1 General rules ..................................................................................................................... 5
    3.5.2 Control of fluid residue build-up ....................................................................................... 5
    3.5.3 Control of inhalation exposure to liquids and toxic gases ................................................ 6
    3.5.4 Oxygen enriched or deficient atmospheres ...................................................................... 6
  3.6 Maintenance ............................................................................................................................ 6
  3.7 Fire detection systems ............................................................................................................. 6
4 Operation of the effect .................................................................................................................. 7
  4.1 Cue operation ............................................................................................................................ 7
    4.1.1 Cues shall be documented ............................................................................................... 7
    4.1.2 Cues shall not be modified without approval ................................................................... 7
  4.2 Monitoring distribution of the aerosol ..................................................................................... 7
    4.2.1 Visual effect evaluation .................................................................................................... 7
    4.2.2 Fluid residue build-up ..................................................................................................... 7
  4.3 Equipment maintenance ......................................................................................................... 8
5 Documentation of effect .............................................................................................................. 8
6 Approvals ................................................................................................................................. 8
Annex A ............................................................................................................................................ 9

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1 General

1.1 Scope

This Standard is intended to be applicable to the creation of theatrical effects using artificial fogs or mists in theatres, arenas, and other places of entertainment or public assembly.

The fogs and mists covered by this Standard are aerosols created using one or more of the following liquids:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) #</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>triethylene glycol</td>
<td>112-27-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>monopropylene glycol (propylene glycol; 1,2-propanediol)</td>
<td>57-55-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>diethylene glycol</td>
<td>111-46-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,2-butylene glycol (1,2-butanediol)</td>
<td>584-03-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,3-butylene glycol (1,3-butanediol)</td>
<td>107-88-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>glycerin (glycerol; 1,2,3-propanetriol)</td>
<td>56-81-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>white mineral oil, medicinal or food grade</td>
<td>8042-47-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>water</td>
<td>07732-18-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nitrogen, liquefied (LN2, L-N2)</td>
<td>7727-37-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oxygen, liquefied (LOX)</td>
<td>80937-33-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>carbon dioxide, liquefied (LCO2, L-CO2)</td>
<td>124-38-9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The aerosols within the scope of this Standard are injected directly into the environment or are carried out of the fog generating equipment on a stream of ambient air, or a stream of nitrogen, argon, carbon dioxide, or a mixture of nitrogen and oxygen that approximates the composition of normal air. The Chemical Abstracts Service registry numbers for the gases that may be used as vehicles for the aerosols within the scope of this Standard are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>CAS #</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>oxygen</td>
<td>7782-44-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nitrogen</td>
<td>7727-37-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>argon</td>
<td>7440-37-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>carbon dioxide</td>
<td>124-38-9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This Standard is not intended to be used for guidance in planning or executing any fog effect that uses a liquid or gas not listed above.

1.2 Purpose

The purpose of this Standard is to offer atmospheric effects creators and operators guidance in the planning and execution of theatrical fog effects so that the health and comfort of workers and spectators shall not be compromised by excessive exposure to chemicals and particulates that are the result of the use of such theatrical fog effects. The Standard is also intended to provide guidance related to the obscuration of hazards or paths of egress in the theatre, arena, place of entertainment or public assembly in which the fog effect is produced. In addition, the Standard is intended to help avoid accidental triggering of fire detection and notification systems, while preserving the required functioning of the systems.

To help in offering guidance, Annex A contains explanatory text for some of the clauses in this Standard. Clauses for which explanatory text is available are marked with an asterisk. The relevant clause in Annex A has the same clause number as the text to which it refers, but the clause number is preceded by the letter A to show that it is part of the annex.