



ANSI E1.28 - 2011
Guidance on planning followspot
positions in places of public
assembly

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Published By:

PLASA North America
630 Ninth Avenue, Suite 609
New York, NY 10036
USA
Phone: 1-212-244-1505
Fax: 1-212-244-1502
Email: standards.na@plasa.org

For additional copies of this document contact:

The ESTA Foundation
630 Ninth Avenue, Suite 609
New York, NY 10036
USA
Phone: 1-212-244-1505
Fax: 1-212-244-1502
<http://www.estafoundation.org>

The PLASA Technical Standards Program

The PLASA Technical Standards Program was created to serve the PLASA 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. PLASA works closely with the technical standards efforts of other organizations within our industry, including USITT and VPLT, as well as representing the interests of PLASA 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 Camera Cranes, Control Protocols, Electrical Power, Floors, Fog and Smoke, Followspot Position, Photometrics, Rigging, and Stage Lifts.

PLASA 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, you must complete an application which is available from the PLASA 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 PLASA 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 Followspot Position Working Group, which authored this Standard, consists of a cross section of entertainment industry professionals representing a diversity of interests. PLASA is committed to developing consensus-based standards and recommended practices in an open setting.

Contact Information

Karl G. Ruling
Technical Standards Manager
PLASA
630 Ninth Avenue, Suite 609
New York, NY 10036
USA
Phone: 1-212-244-1505
Fax: 1-212-244-1502
karl.ruling@plasa.org

Technical Standards Council Chairperson

Mr. Mike Garl
President
James Thomas Engineering, Inc.
10240 Caneel Drive
Knoxville, TN 37931
USA
Phone: 1-865-692-3060
FAX: 1-865-692-9020
mikeg@jthomaseng.com

Followspot Position Working Group Chairpersons

Jack Schmidt
Special Lighting Solutions
1225 Crescent Drive, Suite 101
Council Bluffs, IA 51503
USA
Phone: 1-712-326-9246
jackschmidt@aol.com

Charles Swift
Graham, Swift & Company, LLC
210 Interstate North Parkway, Suite 700
Atlanta, GA 30339
USA
Phone: 1-404-889-8520
cswift@theatrequys.com

Acknowledgments

The Followspot Position Working Group voting members when this document was approved by the working group on 25 November 2010 are shown below. The company or organization listed is the company or organization represented. Voting status is shown by P for principal, A for alternate, and I for individual. The interest category follows the voting status.

Edwin S. Kramer; I.A.T.S.E. Local 1; P; U
Kyle Kusmer; Steven Schaefer Associates; A; G
Jules Lauve ; Theatre Projects Consultants, Inc.; P; G
Richard Logothetis; Lycian Stage Lighting; P; MP
Fred Lindauer; Robert Juliat SA; P; MP
Richard J. Nix; Steven Schaefer Associates; P; G
Chip Purchase; Foundation for Jones Hall; P; U
Jack Schmidt; Ballantyne of Omaha, Inc.; P; MP
Charles I. Swift; Graham, Swift & Company, LLC; P; G
R. Duane Wilson; George C. Izenour Associates, representing the Amer. Society of Theatre Consultants; P; G

Observer (non-voting) members:

Cary Feher; CaRyEATIONS; U
Jerry Gorrell; Theatre Safety Programs; Theatre Safety Programs; U
Kim Hartshorn; Plattsburgh State University Theatre (Plattsburgh State University); U
Curtis Kasefang; Theatre Consultants Collaborative, LLC; CP
William L. Maiman; G
Thomas Paterson; Lux Populi SA de CV; G
John Tedesco; The Phoebus Company, Inc.; MP
Stephen Vanciel; U

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

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this document is to offer guidance and to make recommendations for the placement and arrangement of permanent followspot positions in places of public assembly. Information in this document is not intended to conflict with any federal, state or local codes, statutes, ordinances or regulations, or to replace competent professional advice.

1.2 Scope

This document makes recommendations for the operational and functional aspects of permanent followspot positions within places of public assembly, including the determination of their location within the venue, their physical space requirements, and the safety considerations associated with their use.

The scope of this document includes accessibility and environmental concerns, but only to the extent that these concerns relate to (a) the location and configuration of followspot positions, (b) the working environment created by these areas during their intended use, and (c) the working environment created during other activities incidental to their intended use.

Temporary followspot positions are not included in the scope of this document.

2 Definitions

2.1 followspot: A manually operated spotlight intended specifically for illuminating moving objects or performers.

2.2 followspot position: A purpose-designed, permanently located space or platform, specifically intended for one or more followspots.

2.2.1 followspot booth: A followspot position that is an enclosed room or space specifically intended for the placement, use, and operation of followspots.

2.2.2 followspot platform: A followspot position that is an open-sided platform specifically intended for the placement, use, and operation of followspots.

2.3 obstruction: Any interference to the movement of the followspot, its operator, or any interference in the path of the followspot light beam, between the intended followspot position and the performance area, whether predictable or not. Examples of physical obstructions include building structural framing elements and any equipment attached to the building structural framing elements.

2.4 pan angle: The included angle formed by the followspot's horizontal limits of movement, measured at the followspot's beam centerline.

2.5 qualified lighting specialist: 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 live event lighting using followspots.

2.6 railing: Any barrier that is intended to function as an OSHA or building code compliant guardrail

2.7 Special-Purpose Industrial Occupancy: An industrial occupancy in which ordinary and low hazard industrial operations are conducted in buildings designed for, and suitable only for, particular types of