



INTERNATIONAL
COMMITTEE *on*
ELECTROMAGNETIC
SAFETY

IEEE SCC28/SC2 Committee on Terminology, Units of Measurement, and Hazard Communications

Committee Meeting 8 June 2001
Radisson Riverfront
St Paul, MN

Meeting called to order at 8:10 am by Chairman Rick Tell

1. Introductions

2. Agenda, A presentation on hazard communications was added to New Business. MSC to adopt the agenda.

3. PAR Status The Project Authorization Request covering the development of a Safety Program Guide is valid for one more year according to Ron Peterson.

4. Report of Chairman on activities since last meeting Draft document of Recommended Practice for Radio Frequency Exposure Safety Programs is available online at: www.arri.org/~ehare/scc28-2/scc28-2.htm.

5. Discussion of most recent draft of Recommended Practice Ric Tell opened the discussion with a review of the background and history-to-date of the document. In a wide-ranging discussion of the draft document, several general themes evolved:

General classification of the document as a Recommended Practice or a Guide.

User-friendliness of the document

Generality of the document – can it be used with a range of exposure standards or will it be specific to the IEEE C95.1 exposure standard

Dependence of the draft (categories) on a two-tier exposure standard

Discussion to be limited to fundamental issues;
Concept of “Categories” to facilitate identification of appropriate RF safety program elements;
How, or should, document deal with situations wherein no program exists?

Setting a schedule to complete project



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**Next working meeting;
Can we complete draft in one more working meeting?
Discussion of balloting procedures to be used for Recommended Practice;**

New Business

8. Meeting adjournment

3. PAR Status The Project Authorization Request covering the development of a Safety Program Guide is valid for one more year.

4. Publication of revision to IEEE C95.2 - 1999. This is a substantial update, with signage conventions consistent w/ANSI Z535. John Osepchuk noted that members of the developing subcommittee should get complimentary copies of the new standard from IEEE. Ric Tell had submitted a list of the committee members earlier this year. Ron Petersen sent a new list to IEEE recently. Ric mentioned that there is an IEEE procedure for recognizing those playing a special role in the development of standard. Ric recommended Gordon Miller for such recognition. SC2 will request the IEEE Standards Association to recognize Gordon for his efforts in the development of the revised standard.

A question was raised regarding clarification from OSHA regarding use of new signs. John Osepchuk had contacted Patricia Clark of OSHA in the early 90's. People were being cited for not using the diamond (black/red) sign.

There was discussion regarding the need for a more current letter. There is confusion on the part of users (and OSHA inspectors) in the field. Bob Curtis suggested that there should be a new letter and mentioned that it is only a deminimis (technical) violation of the law. Also, 26 states have their own rules. It was suggested that Ric Tell write a letter, on behalf of the committee to Richard Fairfax (OSHA) referencing the old letter and requesting an update based on the revised standard.

Several committee members expressed concern over the OSHA approach that it is a technical violation of the law. It was suggested we address the OSHA inconsistencies in the area of signage and exposure limits. SC2 will request the parent committee consider petitioning OSHA to change to current law as it relates to the signage requirement and to the exposure limits.

Bob Curtis noted that the exposure standard is referenced in several other (still valid) standards and will be harder to drop. Dropping the sign part of the law would be easier. Issuing an interpretation letter is a two-month job and should be pursued first.

Note: While it was not specifically mentioned, the inference of the discussion was that the "dropping" of the old signage requirement would be replaced by a reference to the IEEE standard (current revision).



5. Old Business

A. Progress on current project: RF Safety Program Standard

There was considerable discussion regarding the differences between a Recommended Practice and a Guide. The IEEE definition generally differentiates between a Standard, Recommended Practice, Guide by the use of the words, Shall, Should, and May respectively. During the discussion it was considered how strongly the document recommended. A number of opinions expressed in support of both the Recommended Practice and the Guide approaches. It was pointed out that either approach, as opposed to a Standard would require a change PAR so perhaps the preferred approach is to do the document first then figure out what to call it.

Following discussion regarding the organization and content of the document, it was agreed that this meeting is not intended as a detailed WG meeting on the guide. Ric Tell will consolidate the issues and the detailed comments and circulate a summary to the committee members. The document will be circulated electronically by 7 December 2000.

The document may be posted to the existing site where not much has been going on recently. The present site address is: www.arri.org/~ehare/scc28-2/scc28-2.htm

It was agreed to schedule a two-day working meeting in January to work on a draft of the document? Bob Curtis offered to host the meeting at the OSHA Technical Center in Salt Lake City. Details to follow.

5.B Other Old Business: It was requested that the committee membership list be distributed with the draft.

6. New Business: A project has been proposed to develop a glossary of EMF related terms. John Osepchuk provided a historical perspective on glossary development activities and their importance in global harmonization. The consensus is that this is a good idea. The direction would be to first collect glossary terms from the existing SCC28/34 documents. Ron Petersen will pull out the glossary lists from the existing standards (can't get at this by the first of the year. Jules Cohen offered to assist.

John Osepchuk is chair of WG1 of the WHO project charged with generating a standard list of terms (international glossary). An objective is to reconcile differences between various national organizations and definitions. SCC28/SC2 will receive feedback from WHO efforts.



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Meeting adjourned: 11:50am. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the committee will be held in conjunction with the parent committee meeting when scheduled for summer 2002.