



INTERNATIONAL
COMMITTEE *on*
ELECTROMAGNETIC
SAFETY

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

Committee Meeting 17 November 2000
Holiday Inn Riverwalk
San Antonio, TX

Meeting called to order at 8:09am by Chairman Ric Tell

1. Introductions, John Osepchuk commented that Brooks AFB lectures this morning had cut into attendance at the meeting.

2. Agenda, MSC to adopt.

3. Minutes of the last meeting: Minutes were not available. D Baron to take notes for today's meeting.

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 before 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.

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 2001.