

## *Spring 2000 Standards Committee Report*

*By Bruce Marlin, Committee Chair*

The spring 2000 Standards Meetings met with much better attendance compared to the CES session. The Soft Parts Subcommittee and the general Standards Committee sessions are working toward standardization of components as well as interfacing with AES and ANSI for industry standards. ALMA currently hosts the only standards organization that is addressing the standardization of loudspeaker components. Participation is encouraged so that all opinions may be voiced and recognized.

The focus for this Soft Component Subcommittee session, chaired by George Pope, was to review measurement technique and summarize nomenclature. A very comprehensive survey was given covering dimensioning, tolerances and preferred measurement technique of soft components. Results will be posted on the website. The survey will also be posted and all are asked to participate. Survey results will be used to frame a draft standard on soft good components for the winter 2001 session. The Standard's Committee wishes to thank all that actively participated in the formation of the information to date.

The general Standards Committee meeting began with discussions as to the progress of the CEMA/ EIA RS-426B Test Disc. Quotes had been obtained for production and pressing the proposed CD. A disc has been produced and is currently under review of the EIA RS426B Standard Committee prior to it being published. I believe that we are now well on the way to providing this long awaited test disc in the very near future. Any required signal modifications should be minimal and we are doing everything to complete this project by the winter 2001 session. Let's look for ALMA's first test disc at the next meeting!

Several open and proposed projects in AES SC-04-03 subcommittee were discussed. AES2-1984 (Specification of Loudspeaker Components used in Professional Audio and Sound Reinforcement) is currently under review. New and proposed projects include speech intelligibility of sound systems, specification of large signal parameters for professional loudspeakers and measurement methods for distributed mode loudspeakers. Also, the AESSC-04-03 Working Group on Loudspeaker Modeling and Measurement, at the New York AES Convention, had a special meeting to invite participation from loudspeaker manufacturers.

The ESTA BSR E.1.8 Rigging Standard (for overhead suspension of loudspeaker enclosures) was balloted with comments last July. There is a February 2000 revision that includes the results of the July comments. This draft will likely be polled for public review once more. This is the first of three proposed standards. The next two will address rigging hardware and systems.

Past meetings have generated interest in formation of a Connector Subcommittee and Metal Parts Subcommittee. There was no representation at this meeting to consider the charter of these subcommittees. These subjects will be kept on the agenda for the next meeting.

The upcoming revision the UL 1480 Standard was discussed. This new standard will allow many installations to combine fire alarm and public address systems. Unfortunately, speakers that are approved under the General Signaling classification will require new UL testing to meet the new revision. The new standard is expected to be in place in the summer of 2001.

The only new business on the agenda was a report on the cosmetic grading of magnet materials. Magnet Material Producers Association (MMPA) standards were offered for review. Current MMPA cosmetic standards cover industry accepted tolerances and appearance. There was discussion of defining "B" cosmetic grading but general consensus was that this was generally defined between individual magnet producers and those that consume "B" stock. This subject will remain on the agenda for the next meeting to see if there is any further interest.

The standards committee is open to all for participation. It is an excellent way to voice your opinions and insights on technical issues affecting our industry. For further information contact Bruce Marlin ([brucem@AtlasSound.com](mailto:brucem@AtlasSound.com)).