

Current Needs of the U.S. TAG to TC 159

Our sub-TAGs have been operating gamely for some time with very small numbers. All the sub-TAGs, however, could benefit from additional members and more U.S. expert participation in their working groups. The need for sub-TAG members is perhaps greatest in SC5 (Ergonomics of Physical Environments). This area concerns all aspects of the physical environment (e.g., noise, air quality, thermal conditions, lighting). In addition, several documents being developed within SC5 relate to noise and thermal conditions in vehicular environments, for which we would especially welcome more subject matter expertise. Please contact Sherry Chappell (sherry.chappell@satechnologies.com) regarding opportunities that are available in SC5.

In the ISO process, unless a country has nominated an expert for a working group, it will receive little or no information about what is going on in that group, other than being notified of upcoming meetings and receiving the documents that are distributed to the sub-TAG for vote. Thus, an important goal for me, as the U.S. TAG chair, is to solicit at least one expert to serve in each TC 159 working group so we will never be in the dark about what is going on in ergonomics standards work in any area. Right now, we have U.S. experts in many working groups but by no means all of them, and, as noted previously, we are permitted to have multiple experts. So, if you are interested in joining any working group, please contact the relevant sub-TAG chair for more information.

Finally, we have an opening for a vice-chair of SC5. Ideally, this should be someone who has expertise in at least one of the subject matter areas covered by the working group. The responsibilities of the vice-chair are to serve on the sub-TAG as a member, to fill in for the chair during periods when she may be traveling or otherwise unavailable, and to document comments and votes that are due to be collected and compiled.

Again, if interested, contact Sherry Chappell.

Highlighting Ergonomics of the Physical Environment in 2008

At the recent SC5 Plenary Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand, an informal invitation was extended for SC5 to hold its plenary during the HFES Annual Meeting. Plans are under way to do just that for the 53rd Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas. A formal invitation through ANSI will soon be issued. When this comes to fruition, it will be a rare opportunity for HFES. Delegates from all over the world will be there and will have a chance to see the work of our nation's premier HF/E organization while they carry out their SC5 agenda.

I welcome your input with respect to improving both communication and participation in international standards work in HF/E, as well as your inquiries with regard to the subcommittees and their work. The more we network, the richer the experience will be for all of us. In this regard, look for changes in the HFES Web site Standards page in the coming months. We hope to make more use of the Web site in providing timely standards-related information, including meeting announcements, calls for U.S. experts, and notices of new work item proposals. ☉

ANSI Approves HFES Workstation Standard

By Tom Albin, Chair, ANSI/HFES 100 Committee

It is a distinct pleasure to inform you that the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) has approved *ANSI/HFES 100-2007, Human Factors Engineering of Computer Workstations*, as a new American National Standard. The formal announcement was published in *Standards Action* on November 16, 2007. This is a major milestone in HFES's standards development efforts and is the culmination of a 20-year process that began with the approval of the preceding document, ANSI/HFS 100, in 1988.

HFES is accredited by ANSI to use the canvass committee method of standards development. Public and committee comments are gathered and a committee vote (or votes) is taken regarding approval of the proposed standard's content. In the case of ANSI/HFES 100-2007, the initial vote established a strong consensus for approval of the canvass draft. A second vote was conducted after a number of substantive changes were made in response to the comments received. The document was submitted to ANSI after the second vote of the canvass committee.

What's New in the 2007 Approved Standard

The content and breadth of coverage of the new standard have been expanded to address changes in the arenas of workstation and computer design. The number and types of input devices have increased to include computer mice and other pointing devices, and the displays chapter has been expanded to cover color devices. The furniture chapter now provides four working postures for reference by designers. This reflects the dynamic nature of computer workplaces; additionally, it seeks to correct the misunderstanding that the 90° posture used in ANSI/HFS 100-1988 was "the" correct working posture. Finally, the integration chapter offers guidance regarding how individual elements that are ergonomically well designed can be integrated into a workplace system that is also ergonomically appropriate.

Any standard is subject to becoming dated because it reflects what is standard knowledge and practice at the time it is developed. Work performed with computers, the content area of the 100 standard, is far from static. Standards bodies' procedures in general, and ANSI's process specifically, require periodic review and update of technical standards to ensure that they remain current and salient with regard to the state of knowledge and practice in the field. The development of ANSI/HFES 100-2007 began in observance of that requirement for periodic review.

Timely review of the content of the 2007 standard will be addressed through a series of workshops covering the content areas of the standard. These reviews will be used to maintain a running commentary on the standard. In turn, this commentary, which we hope will capture areas requiring changes as well as new content areas to be considered in future versions, will be used in the process of updating the standard at the required intervals.

ANSI/HFES 100-2007 Reflects the Efforts of Many

ANSI/HFES 100-2007 would have been impossible without the efforts of a number of individuals who generously donated time and resources to its development. More than 50 individuals participated in the original drafting committee's work, sacrificing many weekends to hammer out the original draft. Since the early development days, numerous small working groups have made many contributions to the organization and content of the draft document. I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to each individual participant for his or her contribution during this process. I am particularly grateful to Committee Vice-Chair Marvin Dainoff; Cynthia Purvis and Carolyn Sommerich, who organized a review of the content of the input devices chapter; and Walt Makous and Doug Kokot, who organized reviews of the displays chapter and the furniture and integration chapters, respectively.

The canvass committee consisted of 19 individuals. These intrepid colleagues volunteered substantial time to review and comment on the content of the entire draft standard during the consensus voting process. They provided many useful suggestions and comments that have improved the document.

Finally, the support of the HFES central office staff was essential in producing and circulating the various draft versions and providing advice and general moral support.

HFES Perspective in Standards Development

It is important for HFES to maintain its involvement in standards activities at both the national and international levels. Our knowledge of the human-machine system is – or should be – a critical element in these standards. Consider the current worldwide emphasis on mandating, through regulation, that devices and systems be designed to be accessible for aged and disabled users. Our knowledge of human capabilities is critical in producing devices and systems that accommodate the widest range of users.

I encourage you to participate in the future development of ANSI/HFES 100 and in the other standards activities with which HFES is involved. It is a unique opportunity that offers many challenges as well as opportunities to learn about specialties different from those with which we are accustomed and to develop a deeper understanding of our profession. ☒

AWARDS**Awards Nominations Invited**

Each year during the HFES Annual Meeting, the Society honors outstanding persons who have made significant contributions to the human factors/ergonomics discipline. Nominations are requested from HFES Full Members for six of these awards. Nominees are not required to be HFES Members. Submissions are due on or before **March 31, 2008**.

To submit a nomination for one of the awards described below, the nominating Full Member must

- submit the candidate's résumé or curriculum vitae, a nominating letter, and at least two and not more than three letters of support from individuals who know the candidate well enough to assess his or her candidacy in terms of the award's criteria; and
- send all nomination packages to HFES, c/o Lynn Strother, P.O. Box 1369, Santa Monica, CA 90406-1369, or lynn@hfes.org. E-mail submissions are strongly preferred; please submit the package as a single file in PDF format.

Nominations are sought for the following awards:

Distinguished International Colleague Award. This award recognizes a non-U.S. citizen who has made outstanding contributions to the human factors/ergonomics field.

Paul M. Fitts Education Award. This award recognizes a person who has made exceptional contributions to the education and training of HF/E specialists. Candidates should either be currently or previously engaged in college or university teaching of HF/E material or should have written significant textbooks in the field. The principal criteria for evaluation are the influence that the candidate has had on students and/or how extensively the candidate's work has been used by educators in general. If the criterion for the award is student influence, as many as five testimonials from current or previous students may be submitted in addition to the curriculum vitae and letters of recommendation.

A. R. Lauer Safety Award. This award recognizes a person for outstanding contributions to human factors aspects in the broad area of safety. This includes HF/E work that has led to reduced accidents and injuries in such areas as industry, aviation, surface transportation, and consumer products.

Alexander C. Williams, Jr., Design Award. This award is intended to recognize those who have made outstanding contributions to the conception or design of any product, service, or system that has had a significant impact on users and exemplifies the excellent use of empirical human factors/ergonomics design principles. In addition to the curriculum vitae or résumé and letters of support, other evidence of the success of the design will be accepted, such as testimonials from users' performance evaluations or papers or reports that substantiate the extent to which the submission is based on experimentally derived HF/E design principles.

Jack A. Kraft Innovator Award. This award honors a person for significant efforts to extend or diversify the application of HF/E principles and methods to new areas of endeavor.

O. Keith Hansen Outreach Award. This award recognizes members and nonmembers who engage in significant activities that broaden awareness of the existence of the human factors/ergonomics profession and the benefits it brings to humankind.

Students are encouraged to compete for the **Alphonse Chapanis Student Paper Award** by submitting a paper for the annual meeting with an award application form, available to accepted authors in April. ☒

Erratum

In the December issue, an incorrect URL was published for the Educational Resources Web site. The correct link is <http://www.hfes.org/web/EducationalResources/educresourcesmain.html>.