

AS 1768:2021



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Australia



Lightning protection

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Preface

This Standard was prepared by the Australian members of the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee EL-024, Protection Against Lightning, to supersede AS/NZS 1768:2007.

After consultation with stakeholders in both countries, Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand decided to develop this document as an Australian Standard rather than an Australian/New Zealand Standard.

The objective of this document is to provide requirements for and guidance on lightning protection for a wide range of structures and systems.

This document is a major revision of previous versions, which seeks to align with IEC standards. The major change is to recognize modern building practices and acknowledge that many modern buildings are inherently self-protecting.

This document is accompanied by a spreadsheet to be used to calculate the risk index for lightning protection.

The spreadsheet can be obtained on purchase of the document as a zip file for PDF purchasers, to be downloaded from the website of purchase. Delivery methods for any additional files may change over time.

The spreadsheet can only be used or reproduced by an authorized user in a way that meets the requirements of this document. It cannot be used for any other purpose.

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The terms “normative” and “informative” are used in Standard to define the application of the appendix to which they apply. A “normative” appendix is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an “informative” appendix is for information and guidance only.

Contents

Preface	ii
Introduction	v
Section 1 Scope and general	1
1.1 Scope and application	1
1.1.1 Scope	1
1.1.2 Application	1
1.2 Normative references	2
1.3 Terms and definitions	2
Section 2 Risk assessment	9
2.1 Scope of section	9
2.2 General	9
2.3 Risk management principles	9
2.4 Tolerable levels of risk	10
2.5 Assessment of risk due to lightning	11
2.5.1 Risk components	11
2.5.2 Risk assessment process	11
2.5.3 Risk assessment spreadsheet	14
2.5.4 Multiple structures	14
Section 3 Protection of structures	16
3.1 General	16
3.2 Air terminals	16
3.2.1 General	16
3.2.2 Air terminal requirements	17
3.2.3 Air terminal positioning	18
3.2.4 Side strike protection	18
3.3 Downconductors	18
3.3.1 General	18
3.3.2 Downconductor requirements	19
3.3.3 Natural components	19
3.3.4 Test points	19
3.4 Strike counters	19
3.5 Earth termination network	20
3.5.1 General	20
3.5.2 Earthing requirements	20
3.5.3 Earth resistance	20
3.6 Prevention of side flashing	21
3.6.1 General	21
3.6.2 Equipotential bonding	21
3.6.3 Protection by isolation	22
3.7 Materials	22
3.7.1 General	22
3.7.2 Form and size of conductors	22
3.7.3 Joints	23
3.7.4 Fasteners	23
3.7.5 Galvanic corrosion	24
Section 4 Protection of equipment	26
4.1 General	26
4.2 Surge protection installation	26
4.2.1 General	26
4.2.2 Introduction to SPDs	26
4.3 Transient overvoltages	27
4.4 Temporary overvoltages	27
4.5 Lightning protection zones	27

4.6	Power SPD requirements	29
4.6.1	General	29
4.6.2	Overcurrent protection	29
4.6.3	Primary SPDs (LPZ0/LPZ1)	30
4.6.4	Secondary SPDs (LPZ1/2...n)	30
4.7	Signal/data line SPD requirements	31
Section 5	Testing and maintenance	33
5.1	General	33
5.2	Testing	33
5.3	Records	33
5.4	Maintenance	34
5.4.1	General	34
5.4.2	Maintenance program	34
5.4.3	Alterations or extensions to the structure	34
5.4.4	Inspection	34
5.4.5	Remedial action	35
Section 6	Personal safety	36
6.1	General	36
6.2	Need for personal protection	36
6.3	Lightning injury mechanisms	36
6.3.1	General	36
6.3.2	Electrical injury and death mechanisms	36
6.3.3	Non-electrical injury mechanisms	37
6.4	Personal conduct	37
6.4.1	General	37
6.4.2	Outdoors	38
6.4.3	Swimming pools	38
6.4.4	Indoors	39
6.5	Lightning detectors and lightning warning systems	39
Appendix A	(informative) The nature of lightning	41
Appendix B	(informative) Lightning damage risk assessment	48
Appendix C	(informative) Examples of lightning risk calculations	59
Appendix D	(normative) Placement of air terminals	73
Appendix E	(informative) Earthing for lightning protection — Function, design, construction and measurement	83
Appendix F	(normative) Installation of SPDs	102
Appendix G	(informative) SPD components, performance and applications	112
Appendix H	(informative) Impulse withstand and immunity of equipment	124
Appendix I	(informative) Protection of specific structures	127
Appendix J	(normative) Protection of structures containing explosives, flammable gases or vapours, or combustible dusts	134
Appendix K	(informative) Protection of wind turbines	142
Appendix L	(informative) Protection of high voltage power systems	148
Appendix M	(informative) Lightning risk in mines	161
Appendix N	(informative) Lightning protection for photovoltaic (PV) systems	168
	Bibliography	169

Introduction

Thunderstorms and lightning are natural phenomena and are largely unpredictable. As such, there are no proven devices or methods capable of preventing, deflecting or attracting lightning flashes. Direct and nearby cloud-to-ground lightning discharges can be hazardous to people, structures and installations. Conformance with this document will not necessarily prevent damage to assets or personal injury but will reduce the probability of damage and injuries.

A lightning protection system is designed to intercept a lightning strike, by placing air terminals at the points on a structure most likely to be struck, conduct the energy safely to earth and dissipate the energy into the ground. Additional measures aim to safely dissipate any energy impressed onto power or data lines, which would otherwise damage equipment within a structure.

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Section 1 Scope and general

1.1 Scope and application

1.1.1 Scope

This document specifies requirements for the design, installation, maintenance and testing of lightning protection on common structures, and for electrical and electronic systems within those structures.

These requirements cover the following:

- (a) Assessment of risk.
- (b) Protection of structures.
- (c) Protection of electrical and electronic equipment.
- (d) Testing and maintenance.
- (e) Personal safety.

1.1.2 Application

This document applies to conventional lightning protection systems (LPSs) that comprise air terminals, downconductors, earth termination networks and surge protective devices (SPDs).

This document does not endorse nor imply the endorsement of non-conventional LPSs that comprise air terminals which claim enhanced performance, or downconductors which claim enhanced magnetic screening over conventional systems. The performance of such systems is outside the scope of this document.

For conformance to this document, air terminals shall be placed in accordance with [Section 3](#).

The protection of specific occupancies is provided for in the following appendices:

- (a) [Appendix I](#) for specific structures.
- (b) [Appendix J](#) for structures with explosive or flammable contents.
- (c) [Appendix K](#) for wind turbines.
- (d) [Appendix L](#) for high voltage power systems.
- (e) [Appendix M](#) for lightning risk in mines.
- (f) [Appendix N](#) for solar photovoltaic installations.