



Installation code for lightning protection systems



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Contents

Technical Committee on Installation Code for Lightning Protection Systems 4

Preface 7

0 Introduction 9

0.1 General 9

0.2 Overview 9

0.3 Users 9

1 Scope 9

2 Reference publications 10

3 Definitions and abbreviations 11

3.1 Definitions 11

3.2 Abbreviations 13

4 General requirements 13

4.1 Classifications 13

4.2 Materials, general 13

4.3 Material classes 14

4.4 Connectors 15

4.5 Fasteners 15

4.6 Protection from galvanic action 16

4.7 Protection from corrosive action 16

4.8 Protection against temperature differences 16

4.9 Protection against mechanical damage 16

4.10 Protection of electrical systems 17

4.11 Conductors routed through fire separation 17

4.12 Execution of work 17

4.13 Maintenance 17

5 Zone of protection 17

5.1 General 17

5.2 Angle method 17

5.3 Rolling sphere method 18

6 Strike termination devices 19

6.1 General 19

6.2 Air terminals 19

6.3 Location of air terminals 20

6.4 Masts 22

6.4 Overhead ground wires 22

6.5 Sideflash prevention 23

7 Conductors 24

7.1 General 24

7.2	Roof conductors	24
7.3	Conductor fasteners	25
7.4	Down conductors	25
8	Grounding	27
8.1	Location	27
8.2	Materials for grounding electrodes	27
8.3	Installation of grounding electrodes	28
8.4	Common grounding	29
8.5	Grounding system resistance	30
9	Bonding of metallic bodies	30
9.1	Materials	30
9.2	Metal bodies of conductance	31
9.3	Metal bodies of inductance	31
9.4	Potential equalization	32
9.4.1	Ground-level potential equalization	32
9.4.2	Roof-level potential equalization	32
9.4.3	Intermediate-level potential equalization	32
10	Class III installations	33
10.1	Materials	33
10.2	Strike termination devices	33
10.3	Conductors	33
10.4	Fasteners	34
10.4.5		34
10.5	Grounding	34
10.6	Interconnection of metallic bodies	35
10.7	Metal stacks	35
11	Class IV installations	35
11.1	General	35
11.2	Structural metallic systems	36
11.2.1	Use of metal framework	36
11.2.2	Strike termination devices	36
11.2.3	Connections to framework	36
11.2.4	Grounding	37
11.3	Telecommunications equipment on roofs	37
11.3.1	General	37
11.3.2	Strike termination devices	37
11.3.3	Conductors	38
11.3.4	Grounding	38
11.3.5	Bonding of metallic bodies	38
11.4	Spikes and flagpoles	39
11.5	Tanks and silos	39
11.6	Fences	40
11.7	Trees	41
11.7.1	General	41
11.7.2	Materials	41

11.7.3	Air terminals	41
11.7.4	Conductors	41
11.7.5	Conductor fasteners	41
11.7.6	Grounding	41
11.8	Stages, outdoor pools, and terraces	42
11.9	Rooftop helipads	42
11.9.1	General	42
11.9.2	Strike termination devices	42
11.9.3	Grounding	42
11.9.4	Finishes	43
11.9.5	Temporary grounding	43
11.9.6	Non-interference	43
11.10	Fabric structures	43
11.10.1	General	43
11.10.2	Metal framework	43
11.10.3	Grounding	43
12	Class V installations — Structures with explosive or highly flammable contents	44
12.1	General	44
12.2	Types of lightning protection	45
12.2.1	Metallic (Faraday-like) cage	45
12.2.2	Masts	45
12.2.3	Overhead ground wires	45
12.2.4	Integral lightning protection systems	45
12.3	Grounding	46
12.4	Equipotential bonding	46
12.4.1	Metallic components	46
12.4.2	Access doors	46
12.4.3	Metallic barricades or bollards	46
12.4.4	Fences	47
12.4.5	Railroad tracks	47
12.5	Utility services	47
13	Solar array protection	47
13.1	General	47
13.2	Strike termination devices	48
13.3	Electrical and mechanical system protection	49
13.4	Grounding	49
13.4.1	Ground-mounted arrays	49
13.4.2	Roof-mounted arrays	49
<hr/>		
Annex A	(informative) — Principles of lightning protection	65
Annex B	(informative) — Inspection and maintenance of lightning protection systems	68
Annex C	(informative) — Determining the need for protection	70
Annex D	(informative) — Surge protection	77

Preface

This is the third edition of CSA B72, *Installation code for lightning protection systems*. It supersedes the previous editions published in 1987 and 1960.

The major changes to this edition include the following:

- a) The Standard has been updated and expanded in order to harmonize lightning protection standards within North America.
- b) The requirements for the various components that make up a system have been consolidated into their own sections (e.g., air terminals, conductors), and ANSI/CAN/UL 96:2016 has been incorporated as the component standard.
- c) Further requirements regarding specialized structures and classes have been included following the base requirements in the initial sections.
- d) New requirements have been added under Class IV installations, covering a number of specialized structures, including buildings constructed of structural metallic systems, telecommunications equipment, and rooftop helipads.
- e) A new clause has been added on protection for solar arrays.
- f) The informative annexes have been expanded into four annexes. Further guidance has been provided for inspection and maintenance of lightning protection systems. The risk analysis has been updated to conform to current best practices, and an annex on surge protective devices has been added.

This Standard was prepared by the Technical Committee on Installation Code for Lightning Protection Systems, under the jurisdiction of the Strategic Steering Committee on Fuels and Appliances, and has been formally approved by the Technical Committee.

This Standard has been developed in compliance with Standards Council of Canada requirements for National Standards of Canada. It has been published as a National Standard of Canada by CSA Group.

Interpretations: The Strategic Steering Committee on Standards for Fuels and Appliances has provided the following direction for the interpretation of standards under its jurisdiction: “The literal text shall be used in judging compliance of products with the safety requirements of this Standard. When the literal text cannot be applied to the product such as for new materials or construction, and when a relevant CSA committee interpretation has not already been published, CSA's procedures for interpretation shall be followed to determine the intended safety principle.”

Notes:

- 1) Use of the singular does not exclude the plural (and vice versa) when the sense allows.
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- 3) This Standard was developed by consensus, which is defined by CSA Policy governing standardization — Code of good practice for standardization as “substantial agreement. Consensus implies much more than a simple majority, but not necessarily unanimity”. It is consistent with this definition that a member may be included in the Technical Committee list and yet not be in full agreement with all clauses of this Standard.
- 4) To submit a request for interpretation of this Standard, please send the following information to inquiries@csagroup.org and include “Request for interpretation” in the subject line:
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 - c) where possible, phrase the request in such a way that a specific “yes” or “no” answer will address the issue.

Committee interpretations are processed in accordance with the CSA Directives and guidelines governing standardization and are available on the Current Standards Activities page at standardsactivities.csa.ca.

- 5) This Standard is subject to review within five years from the date of publication. Suggestions for its improvement will be referred to the appropriate committee. To submit a proposal for change, please send the following information to inquiries@csagroup.org and include "Proposal for change" in the subject line:
- a) Standard designation (number);
 - b) relevant clause, table, and/or figure number;
 - c) wording of the proposed change; and
 - d) rationale for the change.

CSA B72:20

Installation code for lightning protection systems

0 Introduction

0.1 General

The function of a lightning protection system is to provide a means by which a lightning discharge can enter or leave the earth while eliminating or minimizing damage to the structure on which the system is installed.

0.2 Overview

The following document provides requirements for protection from lightning for the majority of structures that designers and builders will encounter. Specialized structures falling outside the scope of this document should be treated on an individual basis.

0.3 Users

This Standard is intended to be used by

- a) lightning protection installers, designers, and maintenance personnel;
- b) engineers, architects, and other design professionals; and
- c) authorities having jurisdiction, third-party inspection agencies, and nationally recognized testing laboratories.

1 Scope

1.1

This Standard covers the protection from lightning of

- a) recreational, residential, institutional, medical, agricultural, industrial, commercial, military, and telecommunications buildings and structures;
- b) tall, slender structures such as smokestacks, silos, tanks, towers, masts, and poles;
- c) immobile property such as equipment, tents, fences, trees, and solar arrays; and
- d) high-risk structures with dangerous contents such as explosives and flammable goods.

1.2

This Standard covers the protection from lightning of structures housing electrical generation, transmission, and distribution systems, as well as structures housing communication systems, but not the equipment or installation requirements for such systems.

1.3

This Standard does not cover installation requirements for early streamer emission systems or charge dissipation/charge transfer systems. No recognized standards body or testing agency exists for Canadian installations of these devices.