



International Conference on Lightning Protection (ICLP)
Executive Board

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April 29, 2012

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

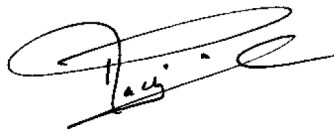
Since the introduction of the lightning conductor by Benjamin Franklin, the area over which a lightning conductor provides protection was a question that has been searched and researched by the lightning research and lightning protection engineering community over a span of 200 or so years. The knowledge gained through theoretical, experimental and field experience of this search is embodied in the IEC lightning protection standards and its derivatives.

The introduction of a lightning protection standard incorporating the current available knowledge and experience does not necessarily mean that the question of the attractive area of a lightning conductor is solved for good. There are many questions that remain to be answered and it is for this reason that the International Conference on Lightning Protection (ICLP) provides a forum for the scientists and engineers working all over the world to share their experiences and display before the scientific community their latest discoveries for scrutiny by the scientific community. Thus, ICLP is an organization that promotes and encourages new lightning protection techniques with a sound theoretical and experimental basis. However, it is the rule of ICLP not to endorse and support the commercialization of any lightning protection technology that is not been proved through long-term field experience. Unfortunately, ESE is a lightning protection technology that had been commercialized and introduced into the market before the technique being researched well in the field. It is for this reason that the scientific committee of ICLP does not endorse ESE lightning protection technology and issued a warning concerning its use and commercialization. This line of approach by the scientific committee of ICLP has proved correct both by the field experience and by thorough scientific investigations. The scientific investigations show that the attractive radius of ESE lightning rods are similar to the normal Franklin rods and thus does not provide additional protection in comparison to a Franklin rod. This scientific work is supported by the field inspections conducted in Malaysia which clearly show that the attractive radius of ESE rods are much smaller than the ones claimed by the manufacturers. Unfortunately, the inability of the ESE rods to maintain the manufacturer-claimed protection area has already resulted in fatal injuries to two human beings who were located within the so-called protective range of ESE conductors. This clearly demonstrates that ESE is a threat not only to the buildings that it claimed to protect but also to human beings located in its vicinity.

Over a period of more than 30 years, the manufacturers of ESE have tried repeatedly to get ESE or its derivatives included in a number of recognized standards, including IEC/EN standards, Australian/New Zealand Standards, and the American NFPA standard, but the acceptance has been denied each time by all due to the proven lack of protection. The scientific committee of ICLP strongly endorses the decisions made by these standardizing bodies.

The scientific committee of ICLP, has learnt that Underwriters Laboratories are investigating the possibility of introducing a third-party inspection and certification of single-mast lightning protection systems with active lightning receptors, and with claimed enhanced protection ranges relative to simple Franklin rods of the same lengths. If this is correct, unfortunately, it will be taken as an endorsement of the ESE technology by its manufactures and by those who expect to gain commercially by the spread of this questionable technology.

The scientific committee of ICLP hopes that Underwriters Laboratory will make a correct judgment with regard to the ESE issue. If necessary, we will be very happy to provide more information on this issue.

A stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Rachidi'.

ICLP President
Prof. Farhad Rachidi

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Cooray'.

ICLP Vice President
Prof. Vernon Cooray