LPI-175 / 2004 Edition Hot Off the Presses

The long-awaited 2004 edition of LPI-175 is now available for LPI members. The LPI-175 document had not received a full revision since its last publication in 1987. Our new LPI document reflects numerous changes that have been implemented in Standard NFPA 780 over recent years, without the legal language found throughout the 780 publication. Designed to be interpretive, functional, and adaptable, the new LPI-175 will add value for the industry or any user of lightning protection systems.

“This new document can be used as an installation guide for compliance with NFPA 780 and for obtaining LPI Certification of members and projects,” says Bud VanSickle, Executive Director. "LPI expects the 2004 edition to provide additional information to assist the installer, inspector and the design engineer," explains VanSickle.

Some of your questions about LPI-175, 2004:

Q. I already have a UL-96 A Standard book, why is the LPI-175 so important?
A. The 2004 LPI document provides an important industry reference guide from the only organization founded specifically to study lightning protection. The LPI-175 provides a comprehensive and detailed manual that goes beyond the scope of the UL-96A document. UL publishes their document as a tool for their field inspection staff. LPI-175 uses industry background and experience to provide the "why" along with the rules.

Q. What about unconventional or controversial methods or techniques we’ve seen in certain specifications and on the internet—does the 2004 LPI-175 document reference these methods?
A. The new LPI-175 only references those methods, which either have accreditation by code (NFPA 780), or a long historical use in the United States.

Q. How will the new LPI document assist my company with LPI certification for members and projects?
A. The new document addresses and clarifies installation issues such as Zone of Protection, Grounding, Interconnection and Surge Suppression in clear language that can be better understood and implemented by lightning protection installers.

Q. Speaking of Surge Suppression, how will the new LPI-175 document help clear up confusion we’ve experienced in the industry?
A. While LPI-175’s section on Surge Suppression is not intended to fully address every application, this required section does discuss and detail methods for protecting entrances for power, communication, data or any "live" circuit. This addresses the massive surge entering from the outside that may cause fire or explosion in the structure. Information with regard to optional electrical sub-panel and point of utilization protection is also provided.

Q. Why does LPI need to print its own Standard anyway?
A. The new LPI Standard addresses many issues, but most importantly, the new document is published evidence of LPI’s continued commitment to education and safety. Publication of this document helps our industry further the applied science of lightning protection and promote the specification of lightning protection systems.
Kim at a Glance

Education:
• 1980 Graduate, St. Gertrude High School, Richmond, VA
• 1984 Graduate, Radford University, BA Degree in Journalism with emphasis in Public Relations & Advertising, Minor Studies in English

Professional:
• Youth Guild Tour Guide – Virginia Museum
• News Correspondent for Young Virginian’s Section – The Richmond Newsleader
• Marketing Director – Story Book/Country Heart Collections – Richmond, VA
• Marketing Communications Specialist – Hamilton Beach/Proctor-Silex, Inc. – Glen Allen, VA
• Communications Manager – Loehr Lightning Protection Co. – Richmond, VA

Freelance-Consultant Work:
• Staff Reporter – The Chesterfield Observer
• Public Relations Consultant – Virginia Department of Health
• Company Spokesperson – QVC & Value Vision – Hamilton Beach/Proctor-Silex, Inc.
• Assignment Copy Writer – Hamilton Beach/Proctor-Silex, Inc.

Affiliations & Memberships:
• Member, National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)
• Member, Virginia Historical Society & Bon Air Historical Society
• 2nd Term Board Director, The Better Business Bureau of Central Virginia
• Board Director, United Lightning Protection Association (ULPA)
• Board Director, Lightning Safety Alliance (LSA)
• 2003 Concilium Winner PR Committee – St. Edward-Epiphany Catholic School

Personal:
Kim resides in her native town of Richmond, VA and is the mother of three sons, Hamilton-18, Joey-11 and Thomas-9. She has an extensive background in journalism and has authored many articles, newsletters and press releases for the lightning protection industry. Kim has also represented the industry as a guest speaker for trade show and seminar presentations, including the Engineer’s Club, the VAHPERD Convention (Virginia Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance) and the 2003 AHCA Seminar (Agency for Healthcare Administration) in Orlando, Fla.
Media Report: Recap From Lightning Safety Awareness Week

Public relations and marketing efforts executed in conjunction with National Lightning Safety Awareness Week in June 2004, had a positive impact all around the country. We truly had a great summer on this front! Here’s a quick highlight of some of our summer activities:

- TV Feature with WOFL Fox Affiliate in Orlando, Fla. Guy Maxwell participated in the interview regarding the LPI-Sponsored Lightning Test House in Camp Blanding, Fla.
- TV Interview with News Network 6, Richmond, VA w/Lightning Protection Included in special program, “Extreme Weather” aired twice in June &July.
- Two Newswire Releases that saw extensive distribution and pick-up on national news and internet outlet services.

Bad News Leads To Good News

One more item of business...We want to thank lightning “bugs” in Franklin, N.C. for alerting LPI about a TV news broadcast, which included some negative comments and false information about lightning protection. This broadcast could have had a negative impact on our industry, but we were able to diffuse the situation, by sending public relations information to the local news station’s news director. As a result, WLOS TV in Ashville, N.C, aired a follow-up broadcast which referenced LPI. When members take the time to alert us to negative publicity, we can take measures to educate and much of the time elicit follow-up stories to combat the negative reporting. Thanks again to our N.C. friends for alerting us to this story.

Insurance Industry Inquiries

Our press release describing the insurance discount with AIG Private Client Group Services prompted a lot of inquiries from the media and the insurance industry. Metropolitan Life and USAA Insurance were particularly interested in this topic and requested information on lightning protection and the LPI for their agencies to review. We have invited contacts with these groups to join the LPI as professional members and have discussed the possibility of their representatives (as well as representatives from the Insurance Information Institute) to participate in our LPI/ULPA conference in February. We look forward to continued relations and networking with these insurance industry contacts in hopes of getting them on board with the concept of discounts for lightning protection systems.

Off-Season Publicity

We’ve found an opportunity for some off-season publicity that we hope will benefit our members. LPI is pitching the attached story with an editorial news release service. The story is scheduled to go out to top daily and weekly newspapers across the country this fall in September and October, 2004. Look for this story in your local newspapers and please notify us at LPI if you see it printed in your locale!
NFPA 780 - 2004 Edition Now Available

The 2004 Edition of the National Fire Protection Association Standard for the Installation of Lightning Protection Systems is now available in print or download at www.nfpa.org. Significant format changes now make the document compliant with the 2000 Edition of the NFPA Manual of Style. Users familiar with the document will find referenced publications have been moved from Chapter 8 to Chapter 2, resulting in requirements previously found in Chapter 3, now found in Chapter 4. Additionally, the sequence of the annex material (previously the "appendix") has been revised to provide a more logical flow. Documents referencing specific paragraphs of NFPA 780 will also need to be reviewed and changed accordingly.

Several technical changes and clarifications of intent have been incorporated into the 2004 Edition, such as:

• Approval of titanium air terminals for heavy-duty stacks
• Allowance for the use of handrails and ladders as a substitute for down conductors
• Approval of a solid strip Class II main conductor.
• The term "Faraday Cage" has been eliminated—although the exemption on the installation of air terminals is maintained for those structures where construction materials and techniques eliminate need. (Air terminals on metal structures 3/16" and thicker are not required.)
• Grounding system clarifications including: spacing requirements, techniques for grounding on rock, use of combinations of grounding electrodes, and the physical size of grounding plates.
• Perhaps most significant, is the revision of the surge protection requirements in section 3.18 (new 4.18). The previous single sentence/general requirement has been expanded into eight subsections (with explanatory annex material) to provide details on hardware performance requirements and installation.

UL Information

Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL) is an independent, not-for-profit product-safety testing and certification organization. UL has tested products for public safety for more than a century, and received its first application for a lightning rod investigation in 1908.

UL's Master Label Certificate Program for lightning protection involves periodic factory testing and inspection of system components, along with inspection of all completed installations that request Master Label Certificates. The program requires that installations comply with national standards for lightning protection components and systems. More than 200 of UL's Field Representatives countercheck compliance with these standards across the United States.

Master Label Certificates, published on UL's certification database, serve as evidence that a lightning protection system has been inspected and certified compliant by a Nationally Accredited Testing Laboratory.

To learn more about UL's Lightning Protection Services or to become a UL Listed Installer you may contact UL staff directly at any time.

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