

Prejudiced reference to “Conventional Standards” by lightning protection organizations, attempting to defame ESE Technology

Contact : Alain Le Calvé
Tel : +33 (0)1 45 05 70 77
E-mail : alecalve@gimelec.fr

21 December 2010

French Standard NF C 17-102 was introduced to the French lightning protection market in 1995 and provided guidance for the protection of structures and open spaces.

Without alternative ESE standards being in existence NF C 17-102 was at that time, and continues to be, accepted by many countries, on a Global scale, for providing recognised lightning protection in all walks of life.

GIMELEC would draw your attention to the fact that the terms of reference of NF C 17-102 and other standards, addressing alternative terminals (NF C 17-100, PR EN 61-024-1) were from the outset, very different. It is a fact that NF C 17-102, whilst referring to ESE Technology also comments on other standards for lightning protection systems, particularly incorporating faraday cage, franklin rod and catenary wire systems.

This still remains the case today with the publication of the IEC EN 62-305 suite of standards. It should also be noted that some detractors of ESE technology have continued for many years in their systematic actions of condemnation, whilst working with the basis of the worldwide standardisation rules, which prescribe that for a same scope, national standards (UTE for FRANCE), must be withdrawn in favour of international standard (CENELEC).

GIMELEC, which in relation with UTE, operates with the strict application of rules and usages in force with standardisation and was compelled to react in June 2009 against CENELEC and immediately published its views on the world-wide-web, to prevent a scandalous campaign of injustice.

By inaccurate and deceitful interpretation of the CENELEC TECHNICAL BOARD decision, a number of people/organisations, with perhaps vested interests, have implied that the NF C 17-102 standard is now an obsolete document - which is completely and emphatically **INCORRECT**.

The recommendations of CENELEC were simply to identify any inconsistencies between French standard NF C 17-102 and IEC EN 62-305 and also prescribed that a proposal be made for conversion of the French standard into a European standard, and such proposals have now been put in place.

It is now time, in the face of much opposition from the detractors and their campaign of eradication, to reiterate the recommendations of the CENELEC Technical Board W 136, in order to bring this matter to a positive conclusion. (annex).

It must always be borne in mind, notwithstanding the 'camouflaging' of NF C 17-102 by IEC EN 62-305 and its proponents, that FRENCH STANDARD NF C 17-102 is still in full force.

A - Official Decisions taken by the BT (extract of CR n° 136)

D136/011	BT noted the information provided by CLC/TC81X concerning the relation between the EN 62305 series (Protection against lightning) and NF C 17-102 (Protection of structures and open areas against lightning using early streamer emission air terminals).
D136/012	BT decided by majority not to establish a BTTF to deal with the ESE system at European level.
D136/013	BT asked those national committees that have a national standard endorsing the ESE system, to ensure that this national standard will no longer contain any reference to the installation provisions of the EN 62305 series and sequently to offer the corresponding national standard to IEC for possible endorsement at international level,
D136/014	BT asked CLC/TC81X to examine the possibility of establishing a pure performance standard, independent from any technology and enabling the development of existing and future technologies on lightning protection systems and report back to BT.

B -What has to be understood when reading those important BT's decisions?**D136/011:**

The BT has simply noted the position of the Lightning Technical Committee of CENELEC (TC 81X) whose majority of members are opposed to ESE technology.

It is necessary not to give to the verb "to note" another meaning than the one it contains, i.e. the collection of advice from the technical Committee without issuing any approval to this subject.

D136/012:

The BT has decided not to open a BT Task force to prepare a European standard for ESE systems as only eight countries had positively voted for this proposal to create a Task force, the BT considers it would be inappropriate to work several years to obtain a negative result - bearing in mind the context.

D136/013:

The BT has requested that all countries having an ESE standard revise it accordingly.

By doing this, the BT has confirmed that ESE National Standards would remain valid and thus BT recognized there would be no evidence of conflict between NF C 17-102 and IEC EN 62-305 standards and consequently there is no reason, technical or otherwise, for the withdrawal of the respective national standard.

BT has requested that this standard be modified in order to cancel all reference to the IEC EN 62-305 series, allowing the NF C 17-102 standard to exist, with the proposal of possible future migration to international level (IEC).

This work is nearing completion.

Accordingly, it was established that European ESE standards (France, Spain, Portugal, Slovakia, etc.) will not conflict with other European standards and will remain valid.

This is the end of a very long debate initiated by a few national European standardization committees.

The antagonists/lobbyists against ESE Technology have not been responded to by CENELEC in their attempts to eliminate this Modern Day Technology.

A revised version of the NFC 17-102 standard will be published in a few months in order to satisfy the BT request. It will have harmonization with other ESE European standards and ultimately become IEC and be recognized as an International Standard.

D136/014:

BT has requested the Lightning Protection Committee (TC81X) set up a performance standard inclusive of all technologies and in addition encourage the development of new technologies.

The experts at GIMELEC are members of this work group.
