The Scientific Committee of the International Conference on Lightning Protection (ICLP)

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

The National Fire Protection Association Standard NFPA 780 has recently issued an annex, Annex N, dedicated to the protection of nonmetallic tanks that may contain flammable vapors. In Section N.4 of the Annex, it is suggested to use a specific device/technique (inductive neutralizer) to reduce the potential difference "between the bound charge on the contained product and metallic components internal to the tank".

The presence of an inductive neutralizer inside a nonmetallic tank could be potentially hazardous in the event of nearby lightning activity and the resultant presence of lightning electromagnetic fields. It is also potentially hazardous in the event of direct strikes since the grounded inductive neutralizer would be electrically connected to the lightning protection system and thus a potential rise comparable to the one impressed onto the lightning rod, would be impressed onto the inductive neutralizer suspended inside the nonmetallic tank.

Our recommendation to the NFPA 780 Technical Committee would be as follows: Remove Section N.4 from Annex N.

Prof. Carlo Alberto Nucci
President of ICLP

Bologna, October 27th, 2022

On behalf of the members of the ICLP Scientific Committee: Prof. Vernon Cooray, Prof. Maria Teresa Correia de Barros, Dr. Gerhard Diendorfer, Prof. Mahendra Fernando, Prof. Jinliang He, Prof. Fridolin Heidler, Prof. Ian Jandrell, Prof. Istvan Kiss, Prof. Grzegorz Masłowski, Prof. Koji Michishita, Prof. Pantelis Mikropoulos, Prof. Joan Montanyà, Prof. Carlo Alberto Nucci, Prof. Alexandre Piantini, Prof. Farhad Rachidi, Prof. Vladimir A. Rakov, Prof. Marcos Rubinstein