

NFPA 780

National Fire Protection Association

NFPA 780 covers lightning protection systems: the air terminals on the roof, the down conductors that carry a strike to earth, and the bonding and grounding that keep the whole system at one potential. The finished system is signed off by an LPI-qualified inspector; on a walk the field role is to observe and document the parts that get buried or covered before that inspection happens.

What it covers

- Air terminals and roof-level placement
- Down conductors and routing to ground
- Bonding of metal bodies to the system
- Grounding electrodes and earth terminations
- Surge protection at service and equipment

What a field inspection looks at

- Air terminals photographed on the roof, spacing and mounting shown in frame.
- Down conductor runs shot before cladding or finish covers the path.
- Ground terminations photographed in the trench, before backfill hides them.
- Bonding connections to roof-mounted metal shown made, not promised.
- Certified-inspection items observed and documented; the LPI-qualified inspector signs the system off.

Adoption varies by jurisdiction. Confirm the edition your authority having jurisdiction enforces before you run a walk against it.