

Inspect and Protect with ATLAS

Choosing a Specialist Contractor for your Lightning Protection System



Clients and Facilities Managers should take care to choose a qualified Specialist Contractor that has the knowledge, experience and skills to design and install or test and inspect a Lightning Protection System properly.

Use the following checklist as a guide to help you make the right decision for your business:

- ✓ **ATLAS logo**
ATLAS is the recognised trade association for lightning protection specialist contractors which has strict criteria for membership covering financial stability, health and safety, insurances, technical standards and training. Always look for the ATLAS logo, which is a badge of quality demonstrating the skills and experience of the Specialist Contractor.
- ✓ **Qualifications**
Check that the employees of the Specialist Contractor have formal lightning protection qualifications, such as NVQ Level 2 for Accessing Operations and Rigging – Lightning Protection Engineer or the new NVQ Level 3 Inspect and Test. Competent Specialist Contractors will also regularly update their employees' knowledge through training and development.
- ✓ **Current Standards**
Any new lightning protection system which a Specialist Contractor installs should conform to BS EN 62305, the recognised British Standard for the design, installation and testing of lightning protection systems, with component parts complying with BS EN 62561. Experienced Specialist Contractors will be able to demonstrate a thorough understanding of the Standard and have received training and an accreditation in its implementation.
- ✓ **Reputation**
Look for Specialist Contractors with an established track record within the industry. Don't be afraid to ask for references from previous clients and follow these up directly to check the credentials of a Specialist Contractor.
- ✓ **A full design, installation and maintenance package**
Experienced Specialist Contractors will be able to discuss the options available to you and the on-going maintenance costs. They should provide you with a comprehensive outline of the work to be undertaken, including continuity testing to ensure the system is electrically sound, earth resistance testing using the appropriate method for the design of the system, and the identification of surge protection requirements and solutions. They should state the compliance of the system on their certification; if it simply states "tested in line with", you may not be receiving the full technical reporting required.
- ✓ **Maintenance**
Experienced Specialist Contractors will set a regular inspection and maintenance cycle to ensure the continued safety of the building, occupants and contents in changing conditions. Look for a Specialist Contractor which recommends an annual test cycle and provides on-going support.

The Association of Technical Lightning & Access Specialists (ATLAS) has been representing the leading companies in the lightning protection and steeplejack industry since 1946.

The Inspect and Protect Campaign from ATLAS aims to establish clear standards of competency and encourage clients to specify ATLAS members for testing and inspection work. To find an ATLAS member in your area, visit www.atlas.org.uk.

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