



DATE: April 2017
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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White Paper on Lightning and Radiant Barriers Available

Over the years a question that arises from time to time is the use of radiant barrier systems (RBS), in particular those installed in/on structures above roof trusses or attached to roof sheathing, and whether there are increased risks associated with the use of such systems during lightning activity (such as during thunderstorms). It has been suggested that the use of such materials in roof structures does in fact attract lightning to the structures. In other words, that a structure with a RBS installed will be more likely to be struck by lightning than an identical structure without it.

A recently-completed white paper on this subject has concluded that this hypothesis ***is not valid***, and that the installation and/or presence of radiant barrier systems (RBS) in the manner described in the study does not affect the likelihood of lightning striking a structure.

This white paper detailing the research and findings on this issue is now available exclusively through RIMA International. Conducted by Engenamic Innopro out of South Africa, this study is conclusive and is a vital tool for anyone confronting the issue of attic RBS attracting lightning.

The white paper – “Does the presence of a radiant barrier system (RBS) (including an RBS with metallic materials) increase the risk of a lightning strike to a structure?” can be purchased through RIMA International. If you are interested in obtaining a personal copy of this important research, contact RIMA-I at rima@rima.net or by calling 800/279-4123.

The Reflective Insulation Manufacturer's Association International is a non-profit association comprised of dedicated individuals working together to propagate the research, knowledge and use of reflective insulation, radiant barriers and interior radiation control coatings. For additional information, please contact Executive Director Mary Edmondson at 800/279-4123.