Claims

1. An apparatus for providing a watertight seal between an earthing rod and a building structure having a waterproof membrane; the apparatus comprising:

a tube adapted such that the earthing rod may pass therethrough;

first sealing means for preventing the passage of moisture between the earthing rod and the tube;

second sealing means for preventing the passage of moisture between the tube and the waterproof membrane; and

clamping means having upper and lower clamp members adapted such that the waterproof membrane may be clamped therebetween.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a housing adapted to contain said first sealing means, the housing having a bore adapted firstly to receive the tube and secondly such that the earthing rod may pass therethrough, the first sealing means being disposed between an inner surface of the housing bore and the earthing rod.

3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the housing further comprises a seat adapted to receive a first end of the tube.

4. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said upper clamp member forms part of said housing, and wherein said second sealing means is disposed between the housing and the tube.

5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said lower clamp member is an adjustable collar movably attachable to a portion of the housing so as to accommodate different thicknesses of waterproof membrane.

6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein said lower clamp member and said portion of the housing comprise inter-engagable screw threads, such that, in use, said waterproof membrane may be clamped between said upper and lower clamp members upon tightening of the screw threads.

7. The apparatus of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the clamping means is separate from, and movable with respect to, the housing so as to be positionable along the length of the tube, and wherein said second sealing means is disposed between the clamping means and the tube.

8. The apparatus of claim 1, 2 or 7, wherein the upper and lower clamp members comprise inter-engagable screw threads, such that, in use, said waterproof membrane may be clamped between said upper and lower clamp members upon tightening of the screw threads.

9. The apparatus of claim 1, 2 or 7, further comprising fixing means passing between the upper and lower clamp members, such that, in use, said waterproof membrane may be clamped between said upper and lower clamp members upon fixing of the fixing means.

10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the fixing means are one or more screws which pass through apertures in one of the upper and lower clamp members and which are secured by screw threads at the other of the upper and lower clamp members.

11. The apparatus of any preceding claim, wherein one or both of said upper and lower clamp members comprises a substantially planar section and at least one protrusion extending from said substantially planar section for gripping the waterproof membrane, in use.

12. Clamping means for use in the apparatus of any preceding claim, the clamping means comprising upper and lower clamp members adapted such that a waterproof membrane may be clamped therebetween, each clamp member having a bore adapted to enable a tube to pass therethrough, and wherein the clamping means comprises sealing means for preventing the passage of moisture between the clamping means and the tube.

13. A housing for use in the apparatus of any preceding claim, the housing comprising a bore adapted firstly to receive a tube and secondly such that an earthing rod may pass therethrough, first sealing means for preventing the passage of moisture

between the earthing rod and the tube, second sealing means for preventing the passage of moisture between the tube and the waterproof membrane, and clamping means having upper and lower clamp members adapted such that a waterproof membrane may be clamped therebetween.

14. An apparatus substantially as described herein with reference to and as illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

15. Clamping means substantially as described herein with reference to and as illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

Claims

1. An apparatus for providing a watertight seal between an earthing rod and a building structure having a waterproof membrane; the apparatus comprising:

a tube configured to allow the earthing rod to pass therethrough, in use;

a housing containing first sealing means for preventing the passage of moisture between the earthing rod and the tube, wherein the housing further comprises a bore configured to receive the tube and to allow the earthing rod to pass therethrough, in use, and wherein the first sealing means is disposed between an inner surface of the housing bore and the earthing rod;

second sealing means for preventing the passage of moisture between the tube and the waterproof membrane; and

clamping means having upper and lower clamp members configured to allow the waterproof membrane to be clamped therebetween, in use;

wherein the clamping means is separate from, and movable with respect to, the housing so as to be positionable along the length of the tube, and wherein said second sealing means is disposed between the clamping means and the tube.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the housing further comprises a seat adapted to receive a first end of the tube.

3. The apparatus of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the upper and lower clamp members comprise inter-engagable screw threads, such that, in use, said waterproof membrane may be clamped between said upper and lower clamp members upon tightening of the screw threads.

4. The apparatus of claim 1 or claim 2, further comprising fixing means passing between the upper and lower clamp members, such that, in use, said waterproof membrane is clamped between said upper and lower clamp members upon fixing of the fixing means.

5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the fixing means are one or more screws which pass through apertures in one of the upper and lower clamp members and which are secured by screw threads at the other of the upper and lower clamp members.

6. The apparatus of any preceding claim, wherein one or both of said upper and lower clamp members comprises a substantially planar section and at least one protrusion extending from said substantially planar section for gripping the waterproof membrane, in use.