

UK SAFETY ALERT

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CAPTIVE KEY INTERLOCKS – KEYED ALIKE & MASTER KEYS

DETAILS OF THE INCIDENT

Guarding to new equipment installed by a contractor on one of our sites incorporated a trap key system, in this case manufactured by Fortress, but supplied by a third party wholesaler. Concern was raised during commissioning, when it was identified that there was a spare key for the new interlock system; further significant concern was raised when it was identified that the keys would also open other existing interlocks around the site, presenting a significant risk of major injury or death.



KEY FINDINGS

Investigation confirmed Fortress offer 2 ranges of keys; CL which are non masterable and ML, which are masterable. When obtained from wholesalers, only a limited number of lock and key combinations are available, giving rise to a risk of having duplicate keys on site. Further investigation has confirmed that a similar risk exists with trap key systems from other manufacturers.

HOW COULD THIS HAVE BEEN AVOIDED?

Duplicate and / or master keys for interlock systems are prohibited on our sites. In this case the systems should have been ordered direct from the manufacturer, who keep a database of the locks they supply to individual sites to ensure they are unique and not keyed alike.

KEY REVIEW POINTS

- If your site use Fortress interlocks, ensure they are from the CL range.
- Verify that trap key systems are non masterable, that there are no duplicate locks and no spare keys...spare keys should have been destroyed.
- Log and compare the serial numbers on the lock and key sets to ensure they are unique; share this information with contractors if they are quoting to install additional interlocks.
- Always read and understand the any warnings / disclaimers associated with critical safety equipment.



CL: A radial disc tumbler lock offering in excess of 200,000 non masterable combinations. Stainless steel internals for extra durability as standard.



ML: A radial disc tumbler lock offering in excess of 200,000 masterable combinations in up to 2000 sets. One master key can unlock a number of locks rather than just the one as with the CL.

Isolation Procedures

Never work on live or moving machinery – always 'lock out'.

Tools and Equipment

Use the right, well maintained, tools/ equipment for the job. Never make do.

Safe Systems

Follow safe systems of work, site rules, signage and traffic signals.

Incident/Hazard alerts

Report all incidents/hazards immediately.

