Safety Toolbox Talk

Tarmac

CASTELL TYPE INTERLOCKS

Castell type interlocks are used quite extensively, generally for the following applications:

- perimeter guards around a conveyor tail drum or feeder
- pan mixers on concrete and mortar plants
- gates controlling access to protected areas (where close guards are not fitted to moving plant).

Castell interlocks are **NOT** isolators.

Castell interlocks may only operate on the control circuit of equipment - it may not be immediately obvious that this is the case - and they do not fully isolate the equipment.

Whenever working on equipment (such as maintenance activities) protected by a Castell interlock, ALWAYS isolate and lock off the electrical supply with a personal padlock before starting work.

You should ALWAYS satisfy yourself that the equipment is fully and effectively ISOLATED before starting work, by attempting to restart the equipment after isolating.

Golden Rule 4:
Do not work on equipment unless:
- you have securely isolated the equipment using a personal lock
- you have checked that the right piece of equipment has been isolated
- any stored energy has been safely released
- equipment that could move has been secured.

When entering an area fitted with a Castell interlock, a Permit to Work may be required. You should refer to the Manager's Rules, or local rules and procedures in these circumstances.

A Castell interlock may be fitted to the isolation switch for an item of plant or equipment. This requires the handle to be turned to the power "off", or "0" position before the key can be withdrawn.

This is a mechanical isolation; however you should also attach your personal lock to the isolation switch and check that the electrical power is isolated by attempting to restart.

Occasionally a time delay is incorporated into the interlock, so that stored energy may be dissipated - run down time, or stored electrical energy in a capacitor.

To ensure the continued safe use of a Castell interlock:
- never defeat or bypass the interlock
- never operate an interlock using more than one key
- never rely on the Castell interlock to provide full isolation
- always fully isolate plant or equipment using your personal lock, in addition to withdrawing the Castell interlock key.
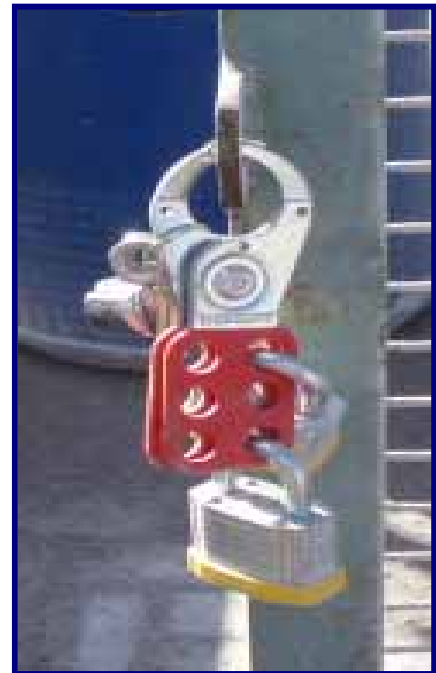
Low Risk Activities within Castell Interlock guarded areas

Your site may have some low risk activities that have been assessed under SHE Policy 23, such as burst bag retrieval, that are allowed to be carried out under control circuit isolation only. You should know and be trained to carry out these tasks safely. If in doubt, speak to your Supervisor straight away.

Whenever entering the controlled area, you MUST always use your personal lock to ensure the equipment cannot be re-started whilst you are still in the controlled area. An example of this would be to attach it to the gate that will prevent it from being closed.

A Castell key is not a personal lock and should be attached to your personal lock. Anyone else entering the same area as you must also use their personal lock
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If the use of a Castell interlock requires people to be locked into an
interlocked area while machinery is running, then the application is not appropriate. Work should stop and you should refer the matter to your manager, so that the installation can be modified.

QUESTIONS – (there may be more than one correct answer)

		A	B	C
1	**Is a Castell Interlock an isolator?**	Yes – because all equipment has stopped	Sometimes	No
2	**The Castell Key is worn and difficult to use - what do you do?**	Carry on until it won't work – then report the problem	Try and use a blank key	Report is early so that a replacement can be purchased
3	**Is a Castell Key a personal lock?**	Yes	Yes, if only you enter the controlled area	No
4	**When should you use a personal lock?**	Always	Sometimes	Wherever the supervisor is around
5	**Should you need to be locked into an interlock area?**	Yes – for fault finding	Yes – for lubrication	No – whatever the circumstances

Names of those who attended this Toolbox Talk	
Name (Print)	**Signature**
Carried out by Name (Print):	Carried out by (Signature):
Unit:	Date: