



## Press Releases

*Castell's press releases provide a valuable source of information on the latest products and applications where our safety products are used. All our press releases are also available on our website on [www.castell.com](http://www.castell.com). If you haven't had a chance to read them, the following may be of interest to your company. If you have any queries or would like any further information on this release or on any of our products, please contact us on 020 8200 1200 or fax us on 020 8905 9378.*

### **CASTELL INTERLOCKS GUARD AGAINST PRECIPITATOR HAZARDS**

A range of heavy-duty interlocks that guarantee the safety of workers operating electrostatic precipitators is now available from Castell.

The electrodes and collection plates found in precipitators require regular maintenance if they are to perform to their optimum level. Given that the negative electrodes carry a charge of over 50 kV, stringent safety procedures are vital if operator access prior to isolation of the LV/HV transformer is to be prevented.

Castell's trapped key interlocks force workers to adhere to a step-by-step process every time they want to gain internal access to a precipitator. Each step releases a key which in turn permits activation of the next stage in the process. This system ensures that access to live precipitators is impossible.

Some interlocking systems use light duty mechanisms, such as pin tumblers, which are prone to plugging and fouling by the loose particulate circulating within precipitators. The design of Castell's locks means they avoid this problem. They incorporate a simple mechanism with tolerances that make them extremely forgiving and far less likely to become clogged with dirt or dust. Should the mechanism experience some level of fouling, the robust key is capable of transmitting much more torque to the lock without bending or breaking than a standard pin tumbler key.

When access to a precipitator is required, its transformer's power is first isolated, releasing key 'A'. The freeing of this key ensures that the power supply to the transformer is locked 'off'. Key 'A'



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enables the earth mechanism to be switched on, releasing key 'B'. The release of key 'B' means that the earth mechanism is locked 'on'. Key 'B' is then inserted into the key exchange box which in turn releases any number of door access lock keys to enable safe entry into the precipitator chambers. Only when this system has been reversed can the transformer be powered up and operation recommenced.



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