Protecting People, Protecting Productivity


## The only range of mechanical interlocks independently certified to PLe




## Introduction to Fortress:

Fortress designs and manufactures customised safety equipment, protecting lives in hazardous workplaces. Our reputation is as a global provider of robust safety specifications for manufacturing environments.

Why Interlocks? Interlocking is a method of controlling two or more interdependent operations which must take place in a predetermined sequence, if necessary remotely controlled or time delayed. The need for this sequence may be safety to personnel and equipment, or it may be to control processes and productivity.

Over the last 40 years, Fortress has become well known in the industry for innovative design, robust engineering and reliability. Headquarters are in Wolverhampton (UK), with supporting offices and manufacturing facilities in the USA, Netherlands, Australia and China, further supported by a global network of trusted distributors and channel partners.

Fortress' current product portfolio includes:
(11) mGard - The only range of mechanical interlocks independently certified to PLe
amGardpro - Heavy duty safety gate switches with connectivity and trapped key integration certified to PLe
amGardS40 - Stainless steel IP69K safety gate switches independently certified to PLe
tGard - Medium duty interlocks with configurable built-in control functionality independently certified to PLd

ncGard - A range of safety switches with non-contact technology



## Why Interlocks?

Interlocking is a method of controlling two or more interdependent operations which must take place in a predetermined sequence, if necessary remotely controlled or time delayed. The need for this sequence may be safety to personnel and equipment, or it may be to control processes and productivity.

## For Reference-

- ISO 14119 is the interlocking standard that forms part of the machinery directive.
- ISO/TS 19837:2018 is the technical specification relevant to trapped key interlocking.


## Why Mechanical?

- One power isolator can be used for multiple doors through the use of a key exchange unit.
- This reduces any fault masking risks and wiring installation required.
- In addition mechanical interlocking is the only method of safeguarding solutions for multiple energy sources.
- Personnel keys can be used to prevent unexpected start up of machinery as per ISO 14118, removing the necessity for escape functions.

mGard is the only range of trapped key interlocks 3rd party approved as being capable of meeting PLe and is perfect for heavy duty applications. Fortress' mGard is suitable for use up to SIL3 (EN/IEC 62061), Category 4 and PLe (EN/ISO 13849-1).

Trapped key interlocking is a tried and tested method of mechanically safeguarding dangerous machines and hazardous processes. Mechanical keys eliminate most of the electrical wiring associated with other types of interlocks making it cost effective to install and maintain.


## Application Requirement:

This robot welding cell's safety system must only allow operators to enter the cells when power to the cell has been isolated and the machinery has come to a controlled stop after a defined run-down time. After access, the system prevents unexpected start up when multiple operators are performing maintenance, via Personnel Keys.


Key removed, switching elements open (machine off)
Access key trapped, Personnel keys removed, Access door open


## Application Requirement:

Industrial concrete mixers have multiple access hatches that are safeguarded by mechanical interlocks. These access hatches are opened for scheduled cleaning under the protection of the installed safety system. Access is only allowed once the power switch to the mixer has been mechanically isolated.
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## Application Requirement:

The double backer machines enclosed in two cells requires extensive safeguarding. A safety system for the cells should ensure operators and maintenance personnel can only enter the areas once power to all of the machinery has been isolated and has come to a controlled stop.


## Valves \& Pneumatic Interlocks

Fortress supplies a range of interlocks suitable for valve applications and for pneumatic isolation. With the incorporation of a mechanical module and key to a valve, Fortress has created a simplified solution for controlling the position of the valve and isolating the valve movement without the need of levers or hand-wheels in other forms of valve interlocking/lockout.


## Valve Application 1



In this application, only one of the tanks can feed into the supply at once.
The use of Valve Interlocks insures only one of the lines can be open because the two interlocks share a single key. Each valve can only be opened while a key is trapped to the locked position in the interlock.


In this application, at least one pressure release line must be open at all times. The use of the Valve Interlocks insures at least one line will always be open because the independent interlocks $A$ and $B$ require their corresponding key to be turned to the locked position to close the valve. The two Key Exchange Interlocks share one key for the two locks marked C. The key for the two C locks is transferred between the units to always trap either the A or B key.

## Specials and Custom Units for Applications

Over the years, Fortress has produced many special-purpose units designed to meet the specific needs of its customers and applications within their industries. Some of these units include: standalone time delay/voltage sensing, ATEX rated switches/solenoids and elaborate key sequencing exchange boxes. Some of these units have been added to the mGard range as their popularity in applications has grown throughout the years, but are considered non-standard or specials solutions due to the extended lead time required to design and manufacture.

Fortress has also helped customers create completely custom units that were specific to one individual application. These units were created in collaboration with engineers between both parties to better understand the needs and constraints of the application. Fortress is pleased to offer advice and assist without obligation; although a more simple solution may be proposed through standard mGard units or the other ranges Fortress has to offer.



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## Power Interlocking

Mechanical Bolt Interlock


Bolt Interlock with Switch











Keys and Accessories


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Stainless Steel Dust Cover
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## Stainless Steel <br> Padlockable Dust Cover

```
Lockout Scissor Hasp
```

Lockout Scissor Hasp with
Cable


Back of Board Adaptor


Part Number CLDC

## Add-On Lock Module



| Part Number |
| :--- |
| XMA-CLIN: Mazak Body, No Dustcover |
| XMA-CLIS: Mazak Body, Dustcover |
| XMA-CLIL: Mazak Body, Padlockable Dustcover |

## Stainless Steel Add-On Lock Module



| Part Number |
| :--- |
| xMSA-CLSs: Stainless Steel Body, Dustcover |
| xMSA-CLSL: Stainless Steel Body, Padlockable Dustcover |

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## A Halma company

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