

OSHA Training Toolbox Talk: OSHA's Lockout/Tagout Standard – Requirements for Locks

[Reference 1910.147(c)(5)]

The OSHA Lockout/Tagout standard requires authorized workers to apply an individual lock to most energy isolation devices prior to performing service or maintenance on machinery and equipment that could be unexpectedly energized, started, or release stored hazardous energy. Here is an overview of some of the requirements listed in the OSHA Lockout/Tagout standard for those locks used to secure energy isolation devices:

- **Locks used to secure an energy isolation device must be substantial enough to prevent removal without the use of excessive force or unusual techniques.** This means our locks must be tough enough that it would take something like bolt cutters or a grinder equipped with a cutting blade to remove them.
- **Locks used to secure an energy isolation device must be capable of withstanding the environment to which they are exposed for the maximum period of time that exposure is expected.** This means locks used outdoors or in wet environments must be designed for exposure to water, and locks used in a corrosive environment must be manufactured from a material that will withstand the effects of the corrosive material.
- **Locks used to secure an energy isolation device must be standardized within the facility.** This means they must all be the same size, shape, or color so they will be more easily recognized as lockout devices used for employee protection.
- **Locks used to secure an energy isolation device must be singularly identified.** This means you should be able to look at a lock and determine exactly who applied that device. This can be achieved several ways, including but not limited to, firmly attaching a durable tag with your name to the lock, applying a sticker with your name to the lock, engraving your name into the lock, or utilizing a log to identify the person using a lock with a particular serial number or similar identifier.
- **Locks used to secure an energy isolation device must be used for no other purpose.** They are for securing energy control devices only! So do not use them for locking doors, toolboxes, gates, or for any other purposes.

By following these simple steps, we can make sure everybody is able to recognize the locks that are used to protect ourselves and our fellow workers at this facility, and we can ensure they will be durable enough to stand up to the job.

Does anybody have a question or comment about these, or other, requirements for locks used as energy isolation devices as under OSHA's Lockout/Tagout standard? Please be sure to sign your name to the training certification form so you get credit for attending this training session.